



# THE DART

## Musically inclined

Across centuries, the attempts that have been made to capture, in words, the essence of music have been extensive. It has been likened to love, to wine, to spirituality—even to juggling and madness, in perhaps the most extreme efforts to pinpoint its meaning. For their first published news stories, students in Mr. Eric Thomas's journalism class decided to do just that—to broaden and redefine the means through which simple melodies shape our world and altogether enhance our lives...a seemingly trying task for their first attempts! However, the journalism students have diligently and colorfully researched, interviewed and written to create an issue of *The Dart* that is all their own. In doing so, they have likewise raised the question: Where would we be without music? We would absolutely not be as fulfilled, and worse, we would not gain the pleasure of reading such a fine issue of *The Dart*.

These 46 young women have various interests and goals for the future, but have all focused their interests to explore the role of music in our every day lives. Many of these girls will go on to be members of *The Dart* or *Teresian* staffs. Others will continue to write and photograph as a hobby, or for other publications. As you're reading, remember to note the names of these students; the next time you see them, they just may be printed on the pages of *Rolling Stone*. - Molly Huber, Managing Editor

Mr. Dwight Foster opens the night's performances with a solo piece during the weekly jazz jam session at The Blue Room April 3. The Blue Room holds jam sessions every Monday night from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and encourages any trained musicians to take part.

KELLYN SMITH



# Jazzin' it up at the Blue Room

The local club, located at the corner of 18th and Vine, features hometown history through memorabilia, live performances



KELLYN SMITH

A member of the audience watches and listens as Mr. Gerald Spaits, from left, Ms. Kathy Kosins and Mr. Tom Ruskin perform at The Blue Room April 13. The Blue Room displays the memorabilia of the Kansas City jazz tradition on the walls and table-tops, offering visitors a taste of history.

4 May 2006

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## ★in brief

Kansas City's Blue Room was recognized in 2004 as one of the one hundred greatest jazz clubs in the world, according to Downbeat Magazine. It was the only Kansas City club to be included in the ranking.

Most weeks, the Blue Room hosts a series called Blue Mondays. Traditionally, these evenings focus on one main artist. Following that artist's set, audience members can sit-in and play along with various jazz tunes.

Next Monday, Blue Mondays will feature bassist Jeff Harshbarger. Blue Mondays generally last from 7 to 11 p.m. Admission is free, and this event is open to the public.

Journalism Student  
Kellyn Smith

From the portraits on the walls, the eyes of past legends look toward the stage where generations continue to come together to perform. With the same attentiveness, members of the audience listen as the jazz notes travel across their ears. Memories of the Kansas City jazz legacy fill the walls and table-tops, reminding those who enter of the influence the history holds today. In the Blue Room, music, and more specifically jazz, is the top priority of all who come.

"The Blue Room focuses in on jazz," said Mr. Gerald Dunn, entertainment coordinator for the Blue Room. "It allows artists to be seen as features, instead of background music."

Established in 1997, the Blue Room operates as a functioning jazz club in conjunction with the American Jazz Museum.

Located at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine, in the historic jazz district of Kansas City, the Blue Room houses jazz memorabilia from musicians such as Charlie Parker, Count Basie, and Big Joe Turner.

"Everywhere you look it pays homage to the Kansas City jazz tradition," said Mr. Lonnie McFadden, a musician who has performed frequently at the Blue Room during the past two years. "It kind of feels like I'm in a time warp. You're performing the same music in the same location as many of the Kansas City jazz greats once did."

Audience members agree that the Blue Room brings a unique element of history to the club's atmosphere.

"The history surrounds you," said Dr. Leslie Becker, a "regular" of the Blue Room audience, who has attended performances since the club's opening. "You feel like you're in a warm and special place surrounded by the ghosts of jazz."

The goal of the Blue Room is to attract an audience that desires a true jazz experience. The Blue Room does not serve food or permit smoking, further encouraging an audience that seeks a music-oriented environment.

"You're embraced by the music without distraction," said Becker. "There are a lot of clubs and many people do not attend for the music, but at the Blue Room it is simply a calming and satisfying atmosphere for listening to jazz."

Musicians recognize the importance of the audience and the dedication to jazz they bring to the club.

"I always receive a phenomenal response from the audience," said McFadden. "It is overwhelming. You can tell that the people came to the Blue Room for the music."

According to McFadden, musicians play off the audience's responses, which can include laughter, applause or silence. With-

out the pressures of conforming to a specific event or occasion, artists are able to branch out and express their individual interpretations of jazz.

"At the Blue Room, I feel like I can go in any direction with my music that I want to," said McFadden. "I'm not afraid to try and expand my imagination with my performances. In a restaurant, people don't come to pay attention to the music. The jazz simply becomes part of the ambiance."

However, with the combination of atmosphere and history, the Blue Room offers an alternative experience to the ordinary jazz club.

"The history, the atmosphere, the jazz, everything about the Blue Room is conducive to the audience enjoying the music," said McFadden. "It takes everything that the imagination can do with 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine and delivers it to the audience and performers." ★

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**Ownership and sponsorship:** *The Dart*, a monthly newspaper, is written, designed and typeset by student members of the newspaper staff. Students enroll in the newspaper class after completing Introduction to Journalism during freshman or sophomore year. The Dart is published with funds from the St. Teresa's Academy general operating fund and advertising revenue. St. Teresa's Academy is a Catholic, independent college preparatory school, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

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# Sophomores blend talents to form band with diverse musical style

Performance turns focus toward future for Empire

Journalism Student  
Linda Kovac

"Summer sitting out by the pool, a ray of sunshine getting in my way. Close your eyes and wish it were cool everyday, and I wish it could be back the other way. But what's dissolved ain't coming back today," sang lead vocalist and guitar player Zack Tomlinson of the band Empire, as the crowd jumped to the beat of the song (originally performed by Phish) and the nerves of performing faded at the band's coming-out gig March 25.

"I was really happy to see that people liked our music and like the band," said Tomlinson. "It gave me a sense of accomplishment to show off all of our work and all our efforts that we put into the concert."

Tomlinson, with fellow Rockhurst High School sophomores Jonny Swift, John Martucci, Jeff Berry and Paul Judge formally introduced their band, Empire, to friends, family and listeners at their first concert since starting the band in November 2005.

"When it was first started, it was kind of a joke," said Tomlinson. "Everyone thought it was just a 'dorky little band,' but when they finally heard us play they knew it was serious."

Alongside Tomlinson, Swift performs the drums and sings backup vocals; Martucci plays the keyboard and piano and sings backup vocals; Berry performs the rhythm guitar; and Judge plays the bass.

"We started the band as just something fun to do," said Swift. "It's fun to play in front of all our friends. I've always been obsessed with rhythm and being able to play any kind of music is a cool feeling."

The band focuses on different styles of music from classic rock, punk, pop and alternative to blues and jazz. They get their inspiration from numerous bands such as Jet, Green Day, Led Zeppelin, Phish, Jimmy Hendrix and Elvis Presley. As well as playing cover songs from well-known rock artists, Tomlinson and Berry create original songs by writing their own music and lyrics, in hopes to perform at the Battle of the Bands at Rockhurst High School in the upcoming years.

"We're unique and fun when it comes to what we play," said Swift. "We don't just stick to one type of music style; we play what



Empire band members John Martucci, from left, Jonny Swift, Zack Tomlinson, Paul Judge and Jeff Berry play together at their coming out gig on March 25. The band's first concert lasted four hours, which they considered a successful first attempt.

we feel, we play what makes us happy."

Although Empire is a growing band, there are occasional fights and arguments. Members agree that every once in awhile conflicts do arise.

"At most times our chemistry is fantastic," said Martucci. "Honestly I think I would be the one that causes the most conflict. I usually don't want to play the songs the band wants to play. I don't even know

some of the artists we do play, but I come around, eventually."

Aside from arguments over what songs to play, the band agrees that it's mainly about playing good music with their friends.

"The band is my strong hold," said Martucci. "Without them I am only one sound and I can only be one sound, but when I am with them, greatness emerges."

The five sophomores were friends before

the band started. Many of the members went to grade school or were in local high school plays together. They agree that whether Empire makes it big or remains only a high school band, their friendship will continue long past Saturday afternoon rehearsals.

"The band has made me four new best friends," said Tomlinson. "It's great when someone asks you, 'Are you that one band?' and you can answer, 'Yeah, that's us.'" ★

# Rockhurst boys continue to rock out after big award

Young band places first in Battle of the Bands with one month's practice

Journalism Student  
Linny Kaufman

Five boys stand to the right of the stage as a Rockhurst High School teacher ends the individual awards for the Rockhurst Carlittos Battle of the Bands. Best Guitarist and Best Keyboardist already went to two of the five boys, but the group is hoping for more. The teacher announces that second place will go to Mind the Gap, seniors who have been together for four years. After this, the five boys know they have it, and so does the audience, all eyes focused on them. The teacher announces that first place goes to Virtuosity and the boys go crazy, jumping in the air and screaming.

Virtuosity began when David Lukens, a freshman at Rockhurst, decided he wanted to compete in Battle of the Bands. Rockhurst freshman Patrick Connor said he remembers the day their group first met.

"[Lukens] wanted to get a band together for the battle," said Connor. "I knew that whatever band he formed would be amazing because of his experience in

song-writing and playing the piano. David asked a couple of guys to come over one day just to jam. Surprisingly, [we] blended pretty nice."

The band eventually developed with Lukens on the keyboard (and harmonica when needed), Pembroke Hill School sophomore Cameron Hampton playing electric guitar, Rockhurst freshman Henry (Hank) Ehly on drums, Connor as lead singer and Rockhurst sophomore Charlie Fitzpatrick on the second keyboard. They became an alternative rock group but play songs in a variety of genres.

Connor said that after the band's first day of practice, they had little time to prepare for the upcoming Battle of the Bands.

"We wrote a couple of songs within a month of the battle and formed our name, Virtuosity," said Connor. "We chose the name because a virtuoso is a mastered musician so what better than describe ourselves as virtuosity? Not to be cocky or anything."

Many people attended Battle of the Bands, including STA freshman Jenny Gottsch. She said that although Virtuosity had little time to practice, the group didn't seem nervous at all.

"They had a great stage presence," said Gottsch. "Their energy was better than the other bands. When they won, the entire crowd went crazy. People

were jumping up and down and they were screaming."

Rockhurst freshman Alex Keeling agrees that Virtuosity was the crowd's favorite.

"It wasn't really my kind of music," said Keeling. "I would listen to it occasionally, but [Virtuosity] just had the best crowd interaction."

Connor said that his group was thrilled with the battle's outcome. For him, it was a once in a lifetime experience.

"It was pretty exciting," said Connor. "I didn't know you could have so much fun, and accomplish great [things] at the same time [until then]."

Virtuosity's newest member, Rockhurst freshman Justin Schlitzer, adds an electric bass to the mix. The six of them plan to create an album as soon as they earn enough money for the recording studio. The group won two hours of time from receiving first in the battle, but Connor said it still isn't enough. He said paying to produce the album is currently one of their biggest struggles, and that they are "pretty much looking for any way." The boys plan to stay together and enter Battle of the Bands again next year.

"We don't hang out, but we get along great," said Connor. "I knew all of them; I just never thought I'd be as close to them as I am now, because I have to admit, they're pretty tight." ★



Rockhurst High School freshman David Lukens, left, and Pembroke Hill School sophomore Cameron Hampton practice loudly in Luken's basement April 18. Virtuosity won RHS Battle of the Bands after only one month of preparation.

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## ★in brief

Friday night, KC local bands Luce and Iris Pattern will play at the Bottleneck in Lawrence. The show starts at 9 p.m., and is for ages 18+. Synesthetic, Schemata, Ending the Silence, and Nothing Much will play at Groundworks Coffeehouse in Leavenworth at 8 p.m. The show is all ages, with \$6 tickets. Saturday night, KC local bands 12th Street and Squibcakes will play at Winslow's BBQ Restaurant in the River Market at 8 p.m. This is an all-ages show, and admission is free. Kill the Excuse, Chloe Bridges and 1981 will play an all-ages show at Groundworks Coffeehouse at 7 p.m. Tickets for this show are also \$6.



# Beginning Piano teaches basic musical technique



Sophomore Tara Ketchum practices piano in one of the individual piano rooms on the third floor of the Music & Arts Building on April 10. Ketchum had no prior piano experience when she started taking STA's Beginning Piano class.

## Elective offers chance for students to expand skills

Journalism Student  
Jessica Nouri

With five students per semester, the Beginning Piano class has novice pianists tickling the ivories.

"Beginning Piano appeals to students because it is a good way to learn about music without the stress to perform," said Ms. Shauna Moore, music teacher.

Beginning Piano teaches students that have never played piano how to read musical notes. The semester class covers the basics of piano and is graded on the improvement students make week to week.

According to sophomore Tara Ketchum, all that is necessary for Beginning Piano is to know how to read music. Originally, Ketchum was nervous about taking a piano class. Although she sometimes gets the notes confused, she has come to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Beginning Piano. Students are given a song to practice, and in their individual lesson with Moore, they perform the song.

"Beginning Piano is not time-consuming because I don't have to work out of school or use up my frees," said Ketchum. "I get to go up in the little practice room three times a week and have one lesson with the teacher."

Sophomore Michelle Samborski heard great reviews about Beginning Piano from her older sister Lynette. Samborski, however, wishes that the class still had a performance in front of an audience, as the class did when her sister took it.

Samborski is not the only student that heard great reviews about the class. Junior Sarah Gramlich signed up for Beginning Piano next semester after hearing good things from past students. Due to the small size of the class and sudden popularity, many freshman and sophomores who wanted to sign up for the class were unable to because the spots were filled by seniors.

Moore says she likes being a music teacher because she enjoys getting to see someone who knows very little about an instrument progress over a semester, like the students in Beginning Piano.

"I always wanted to learn how to play piano, and after this experience, I want to continue to take piano lessons on my own time," said Samborski. ★

# STA reminisces through decades, from Sinatra to Nirvana

## Alumna discuss favorite musical memories

Journalism Student  
Jaime Henry-White

While some STA girls "Pop Ya Collar" with their polo during their "Rush" to "Move Along" to class, chatting it up with their "Best Friend" while strolling across the quad, music once impacted St. Teresa's alumna and their high school experience just as these songs by Usher, Aly & Aj, the All American Rejects and 50 Cent affect students today.

"At the end of my senior year, there was a Senior Ditch Day when only the seniors and the principal knew when it was going to be and no one else," said Ms. Jane Kieffer, a St. Teresa's graduate in 1980 and mother of freshman Katie Kieffer. "We all dressed in uniform like a regular school day and then the intercom came on with 'We Don't Need No Education' [by Pink Floyd] and we all ditched and drove around the circle drive honking and hollering at all the freshmen, juniors and sophomores who were gathered by the windows watching it all and left behind in school."

Another 1980 graduate, Ms. Mary Montag, STA science teacher, recalls that she literally ditched by not coming to school at all on the Senior Ditch Day. "Running on Empty" by Jackson Brown brings her back to her memories of when she and a fellow advisee used to count down the days remaining until Brown's next concert in Kansas City.

The late 70s and early 80s will always exist for Kieffer, Montag and their class of 1980 as Journey, The Sticks, Madonna, the Doobie Brothers, the Bee Gees, the Sugarhill Gang and other musical artists influenced the times through the fashions of big fluffy hair and legwarmers from "Let's Get Physical" by Olivia Newton-John to the disco roller rinks changing from Saturday Night FEVERS during freshmen year to the early stages of rap.

As the burst of the Swing Age flamed in the 1940s, STA teens boogied with the help of 78 speed records that played Glen Miller, Betty Goodman and Frank Sinatra.

Ms. Marybeth Swartz, 1943 alumna, and her husband, Mr. Jack Swartz, were advocates of the Swing Age who continued to dance the jitterbug and waltz



Ms. Marybeth Swartz, a 1943 STA alumna, plays "Stardust" on the piano in her South Kansas City home on April 17. This song was the theme for prom in the 1940s for STA and Rockhurst teens, including Swartz.

together for over 53 years in their marriage after meeting sophomore year.

Swartz, a STA math teacher in the 50s, intercepted the music her students listened to, including 1954 graduate Ms. Debbie Kennan who favored Johnny Ray and Elvis Presley.

"The music today, I've listened to it, I don't particularly like it, but I can tolerate it," Swartz said. "The music of my students I would say the same; I didn't really like it, but I can tolerate all kinds of music."

By Twisting, West Coasting, and doing the Locomotion, the 60s and 70s expanded rock-and-roll widely. The

Beatles especially awed STA pupils with concerts at the former Municipal Stadium.

Ms. Bonnie Vontz, alumna of 1965, Ms. Marion Chartier, 1960, and Ms. Kathy Walters, 1971, were women who all felt the effects of music bringing out new styles of miniskirts, patterned tights and ironed hair, emotions of parents disagreeing with the lyrics of Jerry Lee Lewis and Lil' Richard and analyzing Simon & Garfunkel's songs for comparisons to religion in the theology classes with nuns at St. Teresa's.

When music forwarded into the "grunge" look of the 1990s, groups of

STA girls wore flannel shirts, Converse shoes and big, baggy apparel because bands such as Nirvana, Green Day and Pearl Jam set an example against having a clean-cut look. This head-banger kind of music caused some STA girls not to fix their hair at all for prom because they knew their hairdo would fall out while head-banging, according to Ms. Karen Moran, 1996 alumna.

"My time was quite a wild time," Moran said.

Stated right then and there, ever-changing music through the decades has been "quite a wild time" for St. Teresa's students of all ages. ★

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### ★in brief

Last Friday, STA students traveled to state competitions. Senior Katherine Schilling received a Superior rating for piano and vocal solos, junior Chelsea Burton received a Superior rating in the vocal category, and junior Katarina Vaughn received a Superior rating for violin. Senior Tanith Kartman was rated Excellent in the vocal category, and freshman Haley Doyle received a Good rating for the piano. Doyle, however, was actually rated Excellent but judges chose to lower her score by one rating because her solo was not three minutes.



# Students discover ways to drown out distractions during homework

Music improves grades, increases concentration

Journalism Student  
Mary McCue

Whether it be across the quad the moment the 3:00 bell rings or blaring from open-windowed cars, iPods, radios, CD players, and cell phone ringers are constantly used at STA. But music doesn't just get their juices flowing before a basketball game or get them into a groove with friends—students all over the campus are jamming to music while working on homework, writing essays, or studying for their next test.

"Every time I get the chance, I have my iPod or some type of music on, even if it's really low," said sophomore Abbey Dieterman, a daily iPod listener. "When I study, I always have to be listening to music."

Dieterman first used her iPod as a method to drown out a noisy brother during car trips, but her music developed into a habit and became a studying necessity. During study time, bands such as Coheed and Cambria, Atreyu and Evanescence play from her headphones on the highest volume level. Despite the hard rock vibe, Dieterman feels that both her grades and concentration benefit from the music.

"[Music] doesn't distract me at all," said Dieterman. "It actually helps. It has a beat, and the faster the music I listen to, the more information I can retain at a time."

Dieterman discovered that music can also be useful when reading. While reading the novel *Night* by Elie Wiesel, she rocked out to Fall Out Boy. Now, she can recall a certain part of the book when she hears its corresponding song.

"If you play 'Dance Dance,' I remember that that's when [the Jewish captives are] running through the snow away from the concentration camp," Dieterman said.

Sophomore Tess Palmer is also an iPod-addict when it comes to hitting the books, yet her musical preference differs from Dieterman's. Her iPod playlist consists of instrumentals by the famous composers Beethoven and Handel, such as "Moonlight Sonata" and "Water Music."

"I listen to this music because it's soft and soothing," said Palmer. "It really lets my mind focus on my studying."

Palmer continues to build upon her collection of classics to increase her choice of study music. Her latest addition to her



Sophomores Kristin Belfonte, left, and Audrey Copenhaver share an iPod while working on Spanish homework during a Thursday free in Mr. Mark Fudenberg's room. Though Copenhaver said that she and Belfonte were listening to rap songs at what was the highest possible volume, she said they were "distraction free" while doing their assignments.

MARY McCUE

iPod was a CD entitled "Landscapes: Art of Concentration." This disc, one of many Landscapes CDs, includes 10 instrumental songs. The music was created to intensify mental focus and enhance memory.

"The songs are quiet, yet they all have rhythms," Palmer said. "The different combinations of beats and instruments don't distract me, surprisingly. Instead, they're relaxing and help me concentrate on my studies and at the same time drown

out outside noise."

Junior Michelle Jantsch, however, feels that better concentration comes from studying in silence.

"When there's any type of noise I can't focus on anything I'm reading or studying," said Jantsch. "All sounds have to be eliminated because I get distracted so easily. Even the slightest noises get me sidetracked, and I wind up dancing or singing, and I'm not even thinking about it."

Whether it's rap, rock-n-roll, country, or classical, music is a daily habit for many students as a way to relax and focus their attention on studies.

"I've tried lots of different ways to study, but music works the best," said Palmer. "I think that whatever methods STA girls use to study, they're used to improve their schoolwork. Music is just my way to get good grades and enjoy it while I do it." ★

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## ★in brief

Senior Molly McSorley, who will be attending MO State University in the fall, will play the trumpet in the Pride Marching Band. McSorley, who has played the trumpet for eight years, said she will be required to attend a Music Band Boot Camp in August. Band members will be drilled and trained to march properly. They must also memorize most of the music they play. McSorley said that her music director told her that the camp was really "very similar to being in the Army."

# Music distracts athletes from focusing on fatigue

Entertainment elevates students' potential, promotes endurance

Journalism Student  
Nicole Gravino

Listening to music while running helps to keep the mind off of fatigue and exhaustion and has been proven to promote longer exercise times, according to a study by Southern Connecticut State University.

Sports psychologist Dr. Costas Karageorghis at Brunel University suggested music aids athletic performance in four basic ways. The first way is by narrowing an athlete's attention, and, as a result, diverting this attention away from fatigue and pain.

"Music kind of keeps your mind off of it," said sophomore Sara Donaldson, who runs on the track team at STA. "You don't really realize how long you have been running, and you can go longer."

Athletes deal with pain in two different ways: either by association or dissociation. When an athlete associates herself with pain, she takes it and makes it work to her benefit. When an athlete dissociates herself from pain, she is trying to get away

from it and get it out of her head. Music helps athletes to dissociate from pain.

"The tune you are listening to reminds you of other things, it takes you to another place," said sports psychologist Andrew Jacobs. "It puts your mind in another place where you want it to go."

The second way Karageorghis said music enhances performance, is by altering the mental state of athletes prior to competition. It works as a stimulant to create energy, or as a sedative to calm nervous athletes.

"I know that a lot of people listen to music before they play because it either calms them down or pumps them up," said Jacobs. "It depends on the person, what they need to do mentally to prepare."

Listening to music is not the only way athletes mentally prepare themselves. Other methods include relaxation, visualization and breathing exercises.

"The thing that matters most is that you find what you need to do to be in the right state of mind," said Jacobs. "So you can do what you need to do."

Another method Jacobs often uses to help his patients to perform at their highest potential consistently is to create a list of things that could happen during competition before participating in a sport.

"You have to be ready to deal with

negative thoughts," said Jacobs. "This exercise creates a game plan to deal with them on a regular basis."

One of the final two benefits supported by Karageorghis is to synchronize the rhythm or the beat of music with physical movement so that one can increase endurance and learn to repeat a specific movement the same way over and over. When synchronizing music with exercise, the general guideline is the higher the intensity of the workout, the faster the beat of music.

During track practices at STA, girls normally do not have the opportunity to listen to music because they run on local streets where it becomes dangerous to run with headphones. Instead, they rely on conversation with one another to keep their minds off of the pain.

"When we go running in groups, it is almost like music because we can talk to one another," said freshman Molly O'Byrne. "When I am running by myself though, listening to music helps."

Both O'Byrne and Donaldson said they always listen to music when they are running outside of track practice.

"I always listen to music whenever possible," said Donaldson. "Mostly to keep my mind off of how much my legs hurt." ★



NICOLE GRAVINO

Juniors Emily Tummons, left, and Amanda Morrall run their workout together during track practice at Paul Robeson Middle School on April 17.



# From bee-bop to post-bop, jazz swings into Kansas City



PHYLLIS COLE

Tim Brewer of the Greg Meise Trio performs at 18th and Vine on April 5.

## Kansas City jazz provides basis for modern musical genres

Journalism Student  
Phyllis Cole

Jazz is the foundation of all music genres in our world. Kansas City happens to be one of the homes of these early genres. Jazz, progressed in New Orleans, but came over from Africa without realizing what a big impact it would have on the music world.

“The slaves started getting instruments the Europeans had, and played them, they came up with their own form of music,” said Gerald Dunn, the general manager of the Blue room, on 18th and Vine. “The Dixieland Blues and Jazz came up the Mississippi river, through Chicago, and when it reached Kansas City, we were in the swing era.”

According to Dunn, in the early 1900’s when the Europeans brought over slaves for trading is when jazz began in the United States. Slaves were taken to the Congo Square where they were sold to white Americans.

At the time New Orleans had the highest population of black people, and their population was constantly increasing with continuous slave trade. Slaves brought over their talents with African music, and using instruments given to them by Europeans constructed their own type of music, that was later classified as jazz.

“Jazz comes from African culture and experiences, coming through slave songs and old Negro spirituals,” said Dunn.

Kansas City happens to be the place where jazz grew up. Louis Armstrong, Jellyroll Morton, Chet Baker, and Miles Davis were all influential in bringing jazz to Kansas City. They helped spread the works for jazz and made it significant being

a piece of other genres.

“Louis Armstrong was the father of jazz and instrumental in developing improvisation,” said Dunn. “All music in the United States is influenced by jazz.”

By the late 20’s jazz had become the favorite dance music for everyone. Kansas City had become one of the popular places for people to come during the prohibition in the U.S. Kansas City was one of the few cities that allowed the sell of alcohol at nightclubs and bars.

According to Dunn jazz on 18th and Vine was one of the most popular places for musician and their audience to go. The Blue Room, El Capitan Club, Club Mardi Gras, and Dante Inferno, were all well-known places for jazz musicians and their listeners to go to have a good time. These places help build the musicians reputations as famous jazz musicians.

“People know about 18th and Vine from all over the world. When I went to Germany people didn’t ask me about the Chiefs or the Royals they asked me about 18th and Vine, Count Bassie, and Charlie Parker,” said Dunn.

While Kansas City helped jazz grow and spread, jazz was also doing its part to help Kansas City with its publicity.

“Jazz help Kansas City’s economy and it was a great source of entertainment,” said Dunn. “Everyone didn’t have televisions back then so they went out to view live bands, and hired live bands for dance parties instead of hiring disc jockeys.”

Kansas City has help jazz improve other music genres and even create new one. Jazz and blues were brought here, raised and grew to be a principal genre to all other music. Bee Bop, straight ahead jazz, traditional jazz, cool jazz, hard bop, and many more were all brought out of Kansas City, and has been spread all over the world.

“Kansas City is one of the hubs of jazz,” said Dunn. “Dizzy Gillespie and others, brought Bee Bop and other talents with them, to be the inventors of a whole new genre.”

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St. Teresa’s Academy

### ★in brief

Upcoming Local Concerts:

Coheed and Cambria: 5/5 City Market

Depeche Mode: 5/10 Starlight

Gretchen Wilson: 5/20 Verizon Wireless Amphitheater

Dave Matthews Band: 5/31 Verizon Wireless Amphitheater

Vans Warped Tour: 6/19 Verizon Wireless Amphitheater

Kelly Clarkson: 7/21 Verizon Wireless Amphitheater

## Local musician voices opinions in recent album

### Barclay Martin expresses feelings through music after traveling to the Amazon rainforests

Journalism Student  
Mary Jantsch

“There’s blood coming out of the ground, there’s blood coming out of the ground... It’s a different kind of holy war, with weapons you ain’t seen before, ‘Til the jungle stands no more...”

The words of “The Oil Song” blend with Mr. Barclay Martin’s acoustic guitar, clearly flowing throughout Bar Natasha, a club downtown April 5th.

Martin is a 27-year-old singer-songwriter from Kansas City.

He began performing when he was 20 and living in Liverpool, when a friend encouraged him to join his band, Potato Moon. Martin had majored in sociology but after his experience with the band said he knew that he wanted to devote his time instead, to music.

Martin, however, after a record or two, decided to go solo. He writes his own music and performs with a bass-player, percussionist and back up vocal singer, Ms. Sarah Babcock.

Martin writes about political issues important to him and that he has experienced and seen throughout his life.

“I try to make my songs beyond myself and beyond my day,” Martin said. “I try to write about current events like environment, American culture, consumerism and how I observe them.”

STA freshman Mollie Caffey acknowledged that his music seemed very politically-based, and compares him to Bob Dylan.

The sound of Martin, not only the meaning, is something that people say draw them in. He is known for having a similar voice to James Taylor, and said he is told that every time he plays.

“I learned how to really write songs when I listened to [James Taylor],” Martin said. “Also, I just sound like him.”

Caffey said that there are times in his songs where she would have thought he actually was James Taylor but there are enough parts that are original to Martin that overshadows the similarities.

Although Martin’s roots are in Kansas City, he has spent much of his time traveling around the world. Martin said that he does not really like living by a plan but just more of wherever he ends up.

“I liked traveling to new places, seeing new things and new faces,” Martin said. “I think it’s one of the best educations you can get, I don’t like doing it all of the time, but it’s an adventure.”

He spent a whole year in South America. He lived in Peru for six months, working at a school for children with special needs. The next six months he lived in Quito, Ecuador. There he explored in the Amazon Rainforest. Martin said that the lyrics from “The Oil Song” came to him from that trip.

Martin just got back from touring the entire United States, playing songs from his last album, “Promise on a String.” On this tour he stopped at small local places rather than concert halls. He would play at a café in Fort Collins, a bar in Reno, a theatre in Sacramento or a restaurant in



MARY JANTSCH

Mr. Barclay Martin glances over at a fellow band member, sharing a quick smile. “I like the interaction with the other musicians,” Martin said. “It’s different being up there with them and our music flowing together.”

Kansas City, all small and unique places.

When asked what Martin’s favorite memory from his tour was he slowly inched forward and his eyes grew softer.

He began talking about a week he spent in Maui, Hawaii with a friend. He was playing his guitar out on the beach at night when he came across a baby sea lion.

“Laying there in the moonlight it looked like one of those glistening rocks,” Martin said. “As I was playing my guitar

I kept seeing something kind of inching out of the corner of my eye and I went over. It was very peaceful out there.”

There is an example of what Mr. Randy McRoberts called Martin’s, “down-to-earth quality.”

“Barclay is an incredible writer with wonderful lyrics,” said McRoberts. “I think he is the total package as a young up and coming singer-songwriter. On top of that he is one of the most spiritual, uplifting guys I know.”



# Coffee shops provide creative outlet for musicians

Open mic nights give musicians place to grow in art and creativity

Journalism Student  
Stephanie Chapman

Coffee lovers and music lovers alike have the chance to experience, encounter, and exercise their musical talents and appreciation at open mic nights at local coffee houses.

"Open mic night gives people a chance to perform," said Ms. Karen Moddrell, owner of the Main Street Coffee Shop in Independence, MO. "Maybe they're unsure of themselves as a performer and don't want to try it themselves. They watch week after week, and then they decide to try it. It gives them a chance to develop their art."

Moddrell claims that one of the main reasons she decided to open a coffee shop was so that it would be possible to have musicians and music be a part of their business. On two Saturday nights per month, from 7 to 10 PM the coffee shop has either an open mic night, or a featured artist performing. Moddrell believes that the greatest thing about an open mic night is that they give the chance for people to go and listen to musicians who are trying to grow in their art, learn to break out of their shells, and give performing a try.

Ms. Martha Pruitt owns the Oak Street Coffee Shop, a coffee shop at 6221 Oak Street in Kansas City, MO. Every Monday night of the month, The Oak Street Coffee Shop has open mic night from 7:30 to 9 PM.

"I always go home happy," said Pruitt of the open mic night at her coffee shop. "It feels good. It's a good thing to do at 9 PM."

Pruitt believes both musicians and people who like music need a place for creativity to occur.

"[The audience and performers] really like music," said Pruitt.

Pruitt also believes that the open mic nights have brought new business to her coffee shop.

"A big variety of people, music, poets, and groups [attend open mic nights]," said Pruitt.

Moddrell agrees. Not only are the musicians diverse, but they also play a wide variety of musical genres. With performers



"Chuck" performs for the Open Mic Night at the Oak Street coffee shop on April 3. "Chuck" has played the guitar for 10 years and is beginning again on his harp. Singing at open mic nights is, "just like singing in the shower."

ranging from age four to 70 the businesses are mostly family oriented, and are open to anyone who wants to participate.

However, contrary to popular belief, open mic nights aren't just for people new to performing. Mr. Michael Chapman had been considering performing at open mic nights for quite some time. While on vacation, he came across an article in Preview

Newspaper about the Main Street Coffee House. He flipped to a page about the coffee shop. Chapman thought this to be "almost providential." For Chapman, open mic night is a chance to continue performing and enjoying music.

"All of my life I've loved music more than anything else," said Chapman. I always wanted to be the person singing that

one great song. That's the best feeling in the world."

Open mic nights give everyone willing to try a chance to experience either performances or performing. By coming together to appreciate, listen to, and make music, open mic nights find something that is a part of everyone and helps us to experience it in a more personal way.

# Local saloon tunes up for Saturday jam

Musicians fill East Bottoms with blues uniting diverse community in KC

Journalism Student  
Sarah Slaven

Knucklehead's Saloon, a blues bar in the east bottoms of Kansas City is housed in a wooden building that is over 100 years old. Complete with a cardboard cutout of Elvis in the second story window, and a line of motorcycles in the front of the lot, Knucklehead's is a house of blues and self-expression for people of all ages, races, and creeds.

In the interior of the bar people can find an open place to play music every Saturday. Walls are lined with signs and posters from years ago, and the ceilings with pictures of past events at Knucklehead's.

Knucklehead's past is just as colorful as its appearance. When it was first built in the late 1800's, Knucklehead's once served as a boarding house. Then a few years ago, Mr. Frank Hicks and Ms. Mary Hicks decided they wanted to open an establishment there that would allow musicians to have a place to come and feel at home.

"A solid positive side of Knucklehead's is that it has allowed me to do something that I've always wanted to do," said Frank. "I can't play music, and I can't sing, but I love music, and I'm glad that I can be a part of music in some way."

Not only is the history of Knucklehead's interesting, but Knucklehead's got its name

*"It's about musicians coming together and playing music, and forming relationships."*

Mr. David Slaven

for two reasons.

"One is because I like the Three Stooges and in it Moe was always calling everyone a knucklehead," said Frank. "Another reason is because I'm a Harley Davidson fan, and one of the prettiest motors, if not best is called the knucklehead."

When Knucklehead's first opened busi-

ness was slower than expected, but as word spread Knucklehead's opened for longer hours and more days of the week. When its popularity grew in the blues and motorcycle community it was voted best blues bar in Kansas City in 2003. Then Frank decided to open Knucklehead's on Saturdays for an open jam where musicians could come in, sign up, and play the instrument of their choice.

A frequent visitor and a musician at Knucklehead's noticed the purpose of that jam.

"It's about musicians coming together and playing music, and forming relationships," said Mr. David Slaven who plays at the jam almost every Saturday.

Slaven also noticed various types of people that attend Knucklehead's.

"People from all walks of life come to Knucklehead's; doctors, lawyers, construction workers, everyone from all walks of life," said Slaven. "The main characteristic is people that are friendly, like music, and want to have fun."

Over the three years that Knucklehead's has been in business, it has encouraged the self-expression of all people that visit, and has been open for change, and diversity.

"It's influenced the community by bringing blues people together, unity," said Slaven.



Mr. Steve Wright plays his saxophone at Knucklehead's Saloon. Every Saturday Knucklehead's hosts an open jam where musicians can sign up and play.

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St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

Music moguls Madonna and Kanye West performed last weekend at the annual Coachella Music Festival in Indio, CA. The biggest music festival in the United States, Coachella featured 100 hours of music over two days including nearly 95 different artists. Coachella, considered the "Woodstock of indie rock," hit record highs in two categories last weekend: attendance and temperature. Nearly 100,000 people attended the festival during 100+ days. For more on Coachella, visit: [www.coachella.com](http://www.coachella.com)



# STA listeners discuss ideas about explicit music

STA girls express their opinions about rap music and explicit lyrics

Journalism Student  
Ceri Verble

Many people use music as a way to express themselves; some people think that artists take their message too far, others think it is not taken far enough. In many cases, especially in rap music, the message and idea has gone too far for the comfort of most people.

The ideas of STA students are diverse in the way they view rap and its meaning. Much of the popular music today has an underlying meaning, for example, "shaking your laffy taffy" has nothing to do with the candy that parents may be familiar with.

"I feel that it is stupid to sing about what [rappers] sing about but it's not my culture so I don't understand it completely," said sophomore Molly Hamid, who would rather listen to Coldplay, James Blunt or the Beatles than explicit rap.

Many students find the topics degrading and inappropriate, but all they can do is listen.

The lyrics rarely will stop someone from running out onto the dance floor for their favorite song or listening to it on the radio.

"I think that the message in today's rap music is a bit risky," said freshman Emma Spencer. "I love that everyone has free speech but I think that if some of the littler kids heard it and started to figure out what it meant then it might be bad. Today's lyrics that are listened to by teenagers aren't sending the best message but its okay as long as they don't follow along what's being said."

However, some people may not just listen to the music. If everyone started listening to this music and doing exactly what it said, it may not be the best environment to be living in.

"I think that the message only affects the way people act if they let it," freshman Emily Katz said. "To me it's just a jumble of words that sounds good together and don't really mean anything to me or affect the way I act."



Emma Spencer, freshman, listens to music on her iPod during a bus ride to an STA swim meet on April 10. "Sometimes I feel [rap music] is degrading but other times I truly never realize that," said Spencer.

Parents such as Ms. Jane Kieffer, mother of three girls, first, seventh, and ninth grades, aren't always comfortable with the songs even in the radio edit, which only removes graphic language.

"I feel that [rap music] degrades all people because it shows no respect for life," Kieffer said. "I know that [my children] listen to the music anyway,

but I don't really let them purchase the explicit CDs, even though I know they listen to it on the radio."

In some cases music affects the listener in a certain way. It is sometimes just a way that they convey themselves.

"The affect I see on my friends is not a bad affect it's just opening them up to new things and sometimes they act a

certain way but I don't think it will affect them in the wrong way unless they are being pressured by other people," Spencer said.

"I think sometimes when we listen to music we get carried away and are influenced. It's not a negative influence; it's just the way we are when the music comes on," said Spencer.

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## ★in brief

Las Vegas-based Panic! at the Disco hits the Uptown Theater in Kansas City, July 21. Panic!, which garners comparisons to contemporaries such as Fall Out Boy and The Killers, is headlining along with The Dresden Dolls and The Hush Sound. Tickets are currently on sale through Ticketmaster.

## Committee bans CDs due to explicit content

Parental advisory warnings protect youth from buying albums with vulgar words, acts

Journalism Student  
Kate Duffey

Elvis Presley and Eminem could be considered the musical rebels of their generations. Their explicit lyrics, although 40 years apart have defined pop culture and influenced youth globally.

Many parents of today's teenagers see parallels between Elvis Presley and Eminem.

"Both Elvis and Eminem were controversial revolutionaries," said Mr. Bob Duffey, parent. "Elvis made rock and roll mainstream, while Eminem was the birth of white rappers."

"When I was growing up, a lot of adults didn't like rock and roll; maybe it's just a generational thing," said Duffey. "They didn't like Elvis Presley because he was too vulgar and wiggled his hips in a suggestive manner."

"Elvis's gyrations and lyrics were considered tacky and distasteful, but

nowadays, the music industry would consider it passé and it wouldn't be given a second thought."

Many parents worry about the lyrics that their children listen to. Suggestive messages sung by musicians such as Fat Joe and Kanye West concern adults.

The Parents Music Resource Center, a committee formed by the spouses of key government officials, claimed that since parents were no longer home as often, kids spent more time alone, many listening to inappropriate music. Some of this music promoted violence, sexual activity and drug use. Thus, this committee sought ratings on albums and finally created the Parental Advisory warnings that are found on explicit records today.

Parental Advisory warnings prevent people under the age of 18 from purchasing music with vulgar content. This comforts many parents that do not want their children buying albums with lyrics that may lead to suicide, crime and infectious disease. While this keeps teens from purchasing the music, it does not stop them from listening to it on the radio.

Freshman Leah Barthol thinks there should be one radio station that plays artists' original songs while the rest of

the stations should play edited versions allowing the public to enjoy the music without profanity. Some parents may think of this as a fair compromise.

Musicians like Eminem and Jay Z have profited from lyrics that promote hatred and violence in young impressionable listeners especially the male population. While parents and teachers try to guide young students down the right path, parts of the music industry seem to be hindering this endeavor. For youth seeking an identity and outlet for pent up feelings including fear and anger, popular rap artists seem to fill this void.

Although some rap contains foul language, sexual references and gang violence; it is a reality of life for many.

"I don't get why people think rap is bad," said Barthol. "It's a way of expressing yourself just like any other music. It's people's culture, like dance, fashion and lifestyles."

Ms. Anne Becker, a music major, piano teacher and mother of three teenagers, offers that while she may not like the language, she can appreciate the music, its background and the artists way of life.

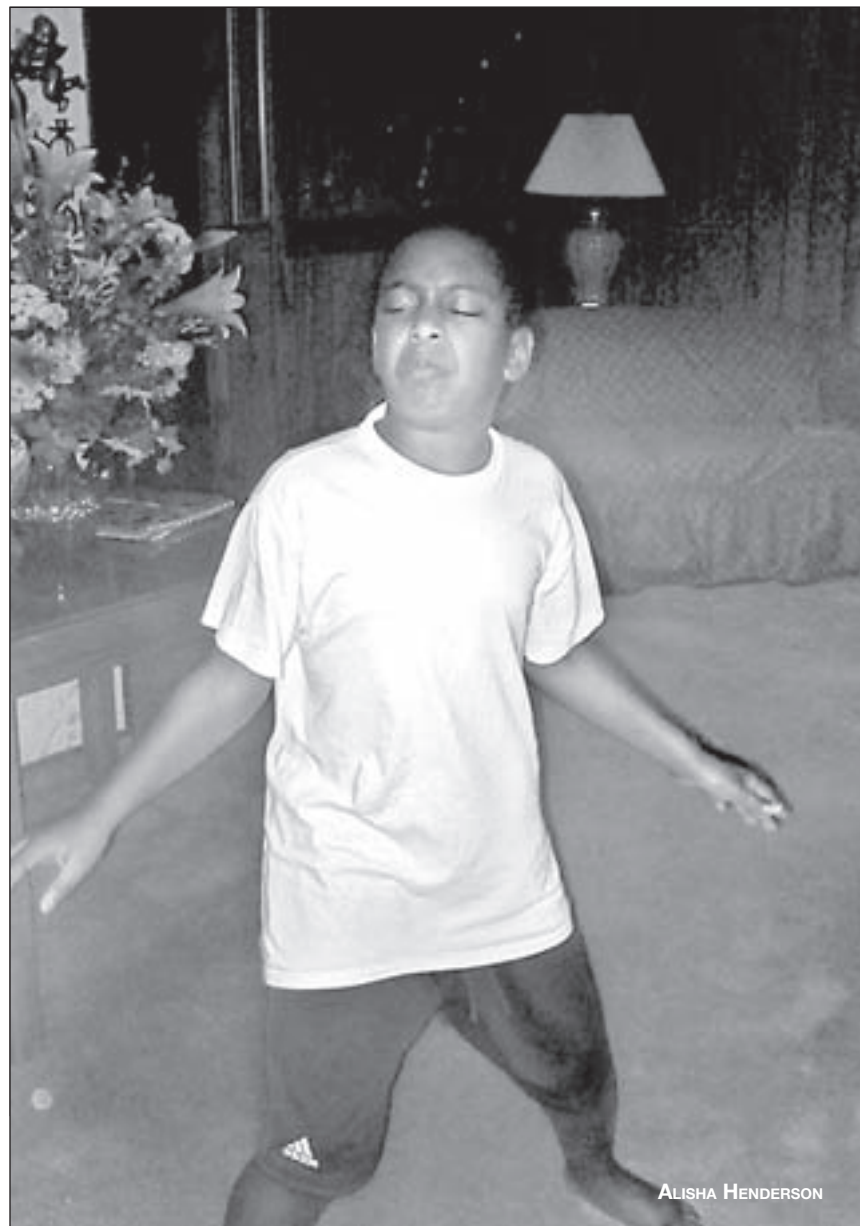
"Rap is their [musicians'] window for artistic expression," said Becker. "Don't shut the window."



Adam Parker shuffles through CD's at Target on April 17. Parker, a sixth grader at St. Peter's, said his mom will not purchase rap albums for him.



# Teenagers in Kansas City sizzling with popular 'Thizzle' dance



Kevin Henderson, 5th grader, shows a "Thizz" face while doing the "Thizzle Dance" to rapper Mac Dre's song, "Thizzle Dance" at his grandparent's house April 14.

## Bay area rap legend Mac Dre invented and brought to Kansas City a new popular song and dance

Journalism Student  
Alisha Henderson

The clubs are jumpin', the dances are hyped and the house parties are bumpin'. Teenagers from all areas of the metro who want to have a good time come out like creatures of the night to party it up and hear music from the latest rappers and music artists. There is one rapper, one song, and one dance though that stands out among all the rest in the parties, clubs, and dances of Kansas City and it is the "Thizzle Dance." This song and dance was created by the King of Thizz, the late rapper Andre Hicks aka Mac Dre. Since the early 1990s the "Thizzle" dance has been around, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area in California. Because of its creator, Mac Dre, it has made its way to the Kansas City metro area and has been popular among teenagers, even ones at the prestigious St. Teresa's Academy (STA). STA sophomore Antoinette Jackson only started listening to Mac Dre a few years ago but as soon as her older sister Jazmine Jackson introduced her to his music and his famed "Thizzle" dance, she instantly became hooked.

"When I heard one of his songs for the first time, I immediately liked it and just started moving my head like a bobble head toy and just started to get up and dance," said Antoinette Jackson. "Then my sister started doing the "Thizzle" dance and I just copied her until I got the hang of it, and when I got the hang of it, I just couldn't stop."

In the Bay Area, Mac Dre is known as a rap legend and known for putting Vallejo, California, (his hometown) on the map with his many popular songs especially his most famous, the "Thizzle Dance". Mac Dre is a favorite amongst teenagers in the Bay Area and his style, songs and dances are carried on by rappers in California like Keak da Sneak and E-40 who are considered the leaders of

the new "hyphy" hip-hop movement.

"I've been doing the "Thizzle" dance and listening to Mac Dre since I was little," said Christian Pippens, STA senior. "I know almost all of his songs and can tell you more about him than anybody in this school."

Pippens, like so many other teenagers in Kansas City, do the "Thizzle" dance to all types of songs but they especially do it to the popular song, "Thizzle Dance".

"Every time I hear the "Thizzle Dance" song at a party or dance, I immediately get excited and get up and start doing the "Thizzle" dance with a group of my friends," said Jackson. "You don't even have to think when you're doing it [the dance]; you're just moving with the music and having fun."

A lot of people in the Midwest, especially Kansas City, want their own dance style that is different from other styles out right now, and something they can call their own.

"The Midwest should come up with its own style for a change," said Jackson. "Kansas City always has somebody else's dance style; it (Kansas City) always copies somebody, and it needs to find something new."

New York has the "Harlem Shake," down south they get "Crunk," and on the west coast they get "Hyphy," "Get Stupid," or do the "Thizzle" dance.

Some people, especially teenagers think that the "Thizzle" dance has come to an end like Mac Dre's life tragically did on the night of November 1, 2004, and are ready for something new. Others though, like Raytown High School sophomore, Antoinio Newbill thinks it is here to stay.

"Mac Dre died here, so by doing the "Thizzle" dance every time one of his songs is played at a party is like a way to remember him," said Antoinio Newbill. "I will always do the "Thizzle" dance, even if people stop doing it and it goes out of style." ★

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### ★in brief

Do you want to learn how to do the "Thizzle" dance? Wipe the sweat off your face.

Get "stupid" in 5 easy steps:

1. Make a funny face as if you smell something rotten or nasty. This face is also known as the Thizz face.

2. Start rocking your head back and forth or left and right, and move your body as if you were flexing different muscles.

3. Pretend that you are a bird and start moving your arms, pop your collar, and then

4. Do another Thizz face, growl like a bear, and keep bouncing to the beat.

5. Repeat steps 1-4 until you have run out of breath.

Now you've succeeded in doing the "Thizzle" dance!

# Rap artist criticizes Bush; creates crazy controversy

## Outspoken West criticizes the President on national TV, finds himself in controversy again

Journalism Student  
Katie Kenney

"Y'all feel a way about K, but at least y'all feel somethin'..." Mr. Kanye West has centered his career on this concept, of not caring how people feel about him, as long as the feel something, which many feel is a rarity in the music industry. This idea, featured in West's song "Bring Me Down," can lead to many things, one of them being controversy.

West, a hip-hop producer and Grammy winning rap artist, is known for not only his music and lyrics, but also the controversy that surrounds him. He often makes headlines for his actions, comments, and music.

"[West] is known for his outspokenness as he is for his hit-making ability," Ms. Lola Ogunnaike wrote in the Feb. 9 issue of the Rolling Stone Magazine.

This outspokenness proved true Sept. 2 of last year during a television special on NBC, which benefited the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

According to ET Online, West, who was hosting the event with Mike Myers, deviated from the script on the teleprompter and launched into a rant about the commander-in-chief's disorganized and slow response to the tragedy.

Further into the broadcast, West again, disregarded the script and said, "George

Bush doesn't care about black people."

After the live broadcast, NBC apologized and stressed that West departed from the prepared script, and that his opinions did not represent their network.

This now notorious event triggered many different reactions from viewers.

Elizabeth Close, a freshman at St. Thomas Aquinas, said that this statement by West helped her form an opinion of him.

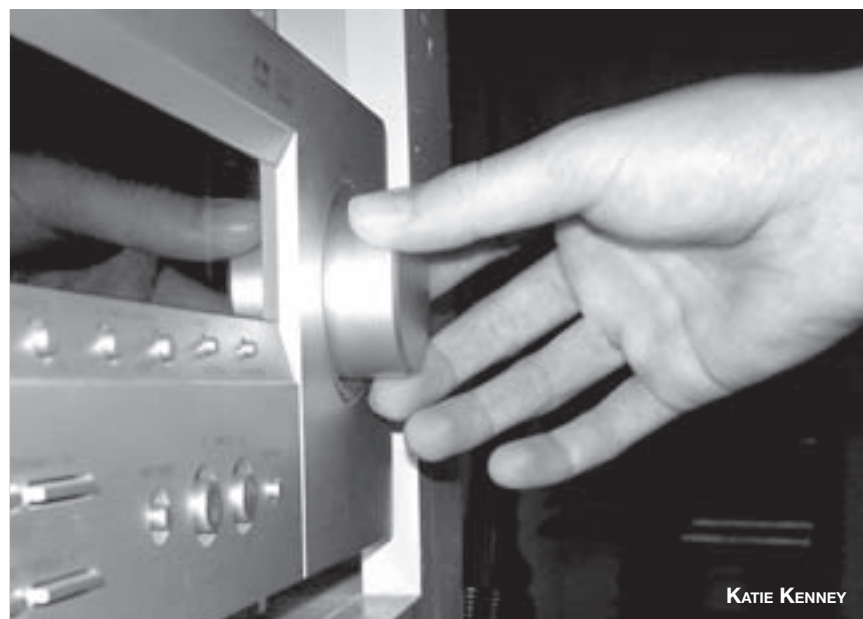
"It just made a bad impression on me," said Close. "It made Mike Myers and [NBC] look bad, which wasn't fair. I think he was being selfish. I mean, think of the people behind the camera; they were probably panicking... "What do we do? Cut to commercial?..."

Close feels that this incident was very immature and thoughtless. She also feels that the medium he used was unnecessary.

"Just because he feels strongly about something doesn't mean that being verbal is the only thing he can do about it," said Close. "It's okay to feel that way and put it into his music, but he doesn't need to get on national television, unscripted and come out and say that."

West's comments, which were later satirized on the television show "Arrested Development," caught the attention of many, including the First Lady, Laura Bush.

"I think all of those remarks were disgusting to be perfectly frank," Ms. Bush, who did not directly address the quote to



Elizabeth Close, St. Thomas Aquinas freshman, turns down the volume of her radio while listening to Kanye West's song "Gold Digger" as it plays in her basement April 7.

West, told the American Urban Radio Networks.

The array of reactions from West's fans was impacted largely by their agreement or disagreement with his statement.

STA Freshman JoEllen Redlingshafer, who is a Kanye fan, said that this incident did not really affect her opinion of West, but she was slightly disappointed in him.

"I think it's good that he expresses his opinion, but maybe it could be handled in a different way," said Redlingshafer, who likes Bush.

Even West, who never apologized for this event, admits that many of his career actions have stirred up society.

West told ET Online, "I am the most controversial artist this year." ★



# Teenagers' music needs crash with high driving risks

Recent statistics show high teen involvement in accidents, fatalities

Journalism Student  
Lauren Damico

A general rushes orders to an army. The demands of a frantic voice pound out of car speakers and rattle windows, causing adrenaline to surge throughout the driver's body. Her foot presses on the gas as the speedometer leans over the speed limit. Mary McCue explains how a song from Mulan may be the cause of why she sometimes breaks the law.

"I hate silence in my car," said sophomore Mary McCue. "If I don't like a song I change it. I have to mess with that."

Teens die in 5,500 to 6,000 car wrecks every year, according to a report done by CNN staff writer, Peter Valdes-Dapena. Also, by the National Center for Policy Analysis, 17 year-olds are in six times more car crashes than adults. Although there are explanations for why these statistics stand, McCue explains how the necessity for music in her car may be one cause of why teens are crashing to their death.

McCue drives a black 2003 Toyota Highlander to and from school, and to pick up or drop off friends on weekends, she explains that she's almost always listening to music. Her music comes from her iPod and sometimes radio stations such as Mix 93.3 or 96.5 The Buzz. McCue chooses her music based on her mood.

"Today was a Lynrd Skynrd day," said McCue. "I listen to music really loud. I don't blare Jack Johnson because he gets me really chill. Some songs you just have to turn up."

The University of Hawaii, Manoa, states that to drive fast, a "powerful or fast beat" should be played, but McCue has never received a speeding ticket. McCue said that she speeds on her way to



Charlie Smith, turns up the volume of "With a Little Help from My Friends" by The Beatles April 6 while driving to a friend's house. Smith's convertible sometimes makes it hard for him to hear his music, especially with friends talking in his car.

soccer because she listens to "pump-up" music, like "Pull Over" by J'kwon or "Hey Now" by Hillary Duff.

"I'm paying more attention to the song than how I'm driving. If the music is blaring, I get distracted more," said McCue.

This loud music is sometimes the hint to "stay clear", according to STA mom Barbara Hartzler.

"I just assume [music blaring teens] are going to be bad drivers," said Hartzler. "I try to get away from them as fast as I can. I have to roll up my windows because it hurts my ears."

According to Hartzler, teen drivers are inexperienced and do not know how to be "defensive drivers." Her music preferences of Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles, and Jackson Brown, differ from McCue's. However, she agrees with McCue that

mood can determine the type of music she listens to.

Hartzler's view of music, has not kept her from receiving speeding tickets. On receiving her fourth of six tickets she has received in her 36 years of driving, she recalls singing to the Lion King's "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

"I was singing... The police officer didn't care one bit about that," said Hartzler as she began to hum the song. "I think my driving's pretty consistent, no matter what music."

Hartzler also states that music should not be an excuse for any type of ticket or cause of a wreck.

"Music is just another thing you can do while you're driving," said Hartzler. "You don't use your ears to watch the road. Your brain can multi-task. It's

not the radio's fault, it's a personal decision."

Rockhurst junior, Charlie Smith defends teen drivers.

"There's a lot of irresponsible drivers, but that doesn't mean all teens are," says Smith.

After two years of driving, Smith has received one warning for speeding. He says that he was driving 5 over the speed limit while listening to music. Smith said he is always listening to music while driving. In fact, he "needs music."

"[Music is] more enjoyable when I have other people in the car- no awkward silences," says Smith.

While many agree listening to music is enjoyable in the car, it isn't always safe.

"It's more important to watch the road than listen to music," said McCue. ★

4 may 2006

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The Dart

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St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

Superstar Britney Spears's husband Kevin Federline plans to release his debut album *Walking With Fire* in August of this year.

Federline told a reporter that if it wasn't for the support of his wife he wouldn't have made the album and refers to her as his inspiration. Britney is currently working on her next album might switch to a new record label.

# Redemption through song: prison choir offers inmates new hope

The East Hill Singers choir at Lansing offers inmates new perceptions and break from stereotypes

Journalism Student  
Sarah Smith

Curtis Mongold is now an established member of society. He was released from prison two years ago, has stayed sober, owns a house on a lake and a little red sports car, and claims, "life couldn't be any better!" But soon, he will be back behind bars.

While in prison, Mongold joined the East Hill Singers, a choir group of Lansing minimum security inmates and civilian volunteers. The choir is part of Arts in Prison Inc. and works to fosters healthy self esteem and productive mind sets in prisoners.

"Many of the men in prison will be back in the community soon," said Ms. Elvera Voth, founder and conductor of the East Hill Singers. "I'd rather have them as a neighbor with hope in their hearts than with hate in their eyes."

In 1995, at age 70, Voth retired from a conducting career that had put her among the world's best. Taking her experience to a new venue, she began opening the hearts and minds of the incarcerated.

"They tell us the program gives them hope," said Ms. Nancy Meis, executive director of Arts in Prison. "The hope that they can get out of prison and have a productive life. For some it would be the first time that has happened."

Meis now realizes the impact of reentering inmates into society and how easily they can fail if not prepared. The choir is a way for prisoners to stay involved and better themselves until their release.

"When you're in prison, you become enamored with the idea that you are worth-

less and it's reinforced daily by the staff," said Mongold. "I knew this was not what I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing, being a revolving door customer in the penal system; I realized that if anyone was going to change my life, it would have to be me."

The program gave Mongold the opportunity to sing, which he had always loved, and to see that the public could perceive him as more than a convict, removing the number from his name.

Mongold now is in quality control at Henke Manufacturing, where he drove a forklift while in prison. Working alongside current inmates, many of whom are in the choir, he takes on a mentoring role.

"They know I know where they're coming from," he said. "I've had people come say, 'you're my inspiration,' that just makes my whole day!"

As soon as he is "off paper" Mongold will be allowed back into Lansing to sing as a community volunteer. His fondest memory was the first concert which his mother attended and the feeling of closure it gave him.

"She died shortly after that, and this allowed me not to have any regrets," he said. "She'd seen me start to turn things around."

The choir practices twice a week to prepare for benefit concerts which are held quarterly at local churches. Here, volunteers and inmates come together, separated only by the color of their shirts. The choir is now recognized as an acclaimed musical group that performs complex arrangements.

"I take anybody who comes," said Voth. "I don't want to give them one more failure



The East Hill Singers choir group is comprised of minimum security Lansing Prison inmates and civilian vocalists. Separated only by the color of their shirts, these men perform four times a year at benefit concerts for the Arts In Prison program.

in life. So they all come, and believe me, they can't all sing."

The men quickly learn the benefits of working together and becoming part of a community enterprise. Of the 2,500 inmates at Lansing, there are only around 20 in the choir and Voth would love to see this number grow.

"Music is not a luxury but a necessity," said Voth, quoting her mentor, conductor Robert Shaw. "Not simply because it is 'therapeutic' nor because it is the 'univer-

sal language,' but because it is the persistent focus of man's intelligence, aspiration and good-will."

Humans have long sought nourishment through musical expression. The choir takes the most malnourished spirits in society and allows them to connect on a human level.

"We don't realize that these inmates aren't too far different from us," said Meis. "They are human beings who are imperfect, but who isn't? It really breaks down the stereotypes of 'us and them.'" ★



## Satellite radio becomes norm, capable of replacing traditional

Despite a monthly fee listeners are subscribing more to satellite radio

Journalism Student  
Mallory Sweatt

With 120 channels and no commercials, satellite radio companies such as Sirius and XM are rapidly growing in popularity. Satellite radio is \$10 to \$12 monthly and an initial payment of \$185 minimum to get it in your car. With the recent increase in sales, listeners question if XM and Sirius will take over the radio world.

Freshman Paige Kuhlmann prefers satellite because she feels there are more options than regular radio. The previous owners of her car subscribed to XM, and Kuhlmann's family renewed the subscription because they liked it so much.

XM Radio now has over 2.5 million subscribers while Sirius has around 700,000. Although both are very similar, Sirius is a few dollars more expensive at \$13 a month, while XM is only \$10. They both play the same music, some genres have more stations than other, but the company to pick depends on tastes and sensibilities.

"I think Sirius should have more stations of each genre," said Kelsie Coe, a freshman at Blue Valley High School.

Coe received Sirius radio as a Christmas gift with a yearlong subscription. She said that her family did not renew because they didn't listen to it enough and felt that their money was wasted. Coe said she still listened to the radio more than satellite even if that meant enduring commercial breaks.

Even though Coe likes the radio more than satellite, she still finds commercials annoying.

"I'm not listening to [the radio] because I want to listen to commercials, I'm listening to it because I want to hear music," Coe

said.

According to listeners, although satellite radio is commercial-free and has more stations and information about songs, the regular radio isn't dead yet. Like Coe, they enjoy listening to it because they like to hear about local news and what's going on around the city.

Freshman Emily Bullington listens to the radio about three hours a day. She also enjoys the talk shows in the morning and finds the DJ's amusing. Bullington does not personally have a subscription to satellite radio, but wishes she did. She listens to satellite radio when she is with friends that have it. Bullington likes it more than regular radio for a couple reasons. The first being the lack of commercials and secondly it shows which song is playing and who it is by, so it makes the song much easier to find and download.

"It's cool how on XM radio you can listen to whatever genre of music you are in the mood for," said Bullington.

Satellite radio can also be complicated. People are able to subscribe to it when buying a new car but it's difficult to set up, according to Ms. Amy Sweatt

"It's easy to subscribe to but then you have to have the radio on for over an hour to get a signal in your car," Sweatt said.

Sweatt said it's easy to set up the subscription but it took her a few days to get a signal in her car.

So, which is better; Satellite or regular radio? It all comes down to one's personal opinion. Are listeners willing to pay for a commercial-free radio?

It's all about what someone is willing to sacrifice. Coe said she enjoyed listening to her favorite satellite stations even though she felt she listened to regular FM radio more. Kuhlmann thinks regular radio has not quite lost its appeal, but satellite radio is capable of replacing and becoming more popular than normal radio. ★



Freshman Kaitlin Zidar dances to Mix 93.3 on her radio while singing her favorite song. Zidar loves listening to her radio while hanging out at home after school.

4 may 2006

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The Dart  
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St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

International singing sensation Michael Buble is launching his summer tour. He is not scheduled to perform in Kansas City. The closest show will be in Des Moines, Iowa on June 26 at the Civic Center. Tickets range in price from 120 to over 300 dollars. Buble became well known for his recordings of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin song but his latest single "Home" has topped the charts.

## STA students break laws with illegal downloading

Large fines follow when illegal downloading occurs on large amount of teenagers' home computers

Journalism Student  
Maggie Steinart

Fines up to \$150,000 per song are being given out to college and high school students for illegal music downloading from the RIAA or the Recording Industry Association of America, but it still continues to happen. Millions of people are still downloading illegally. Freshman Molly Fakoury said that she realizes people are being caught, but she just hopes it won't happen to her.

"I don't think illegal music downloading is right, but it's the easiest way, especially for teenagers, with our lack of money," said Fakoury.

Teenagers are getting this music off the internet through software including the programs KaZaa, Limewire, Bearshare, and Grokster. Downloading those software takes typically two minutes. Most of these sites have a warning about copyright infringement on them, but they are in the footer of the page and in a smaller font.

"For me it doesn't feel like stealing

when you're just downloading something off the computer, because it's right in front of you," said freshman Madilyn Roberts. A I guess I'm confused on what is legal and what is illegal. Like where do they draw the line?"

Music file sharing became public in the mid to late 90's with the increased popularity of MP3. This popularity increased mainly by word of mouth. Music file sharing has decreased in the last seven months due to controversy.

"I feel like times are changing and the RIAA needs to make a software to prevent this if they want people to stop," said Roberts.

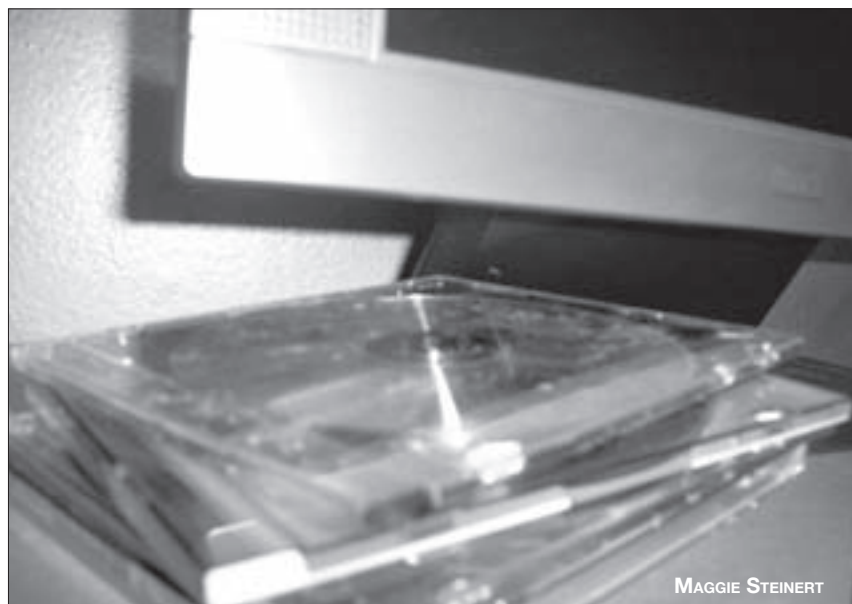
Some teenagers substitute iTunes and other legal music downloading systems for these others and

for a dollar a song they are completely within the law.

"I can see where people would use illegal places because it is annoying for me to have to pay for songs when I know some of my friends are getting this same song for free," said freshman Emma Spencer.

*"I can see where people would use illegal places because it is annoying for me to have to pay for songs when I know some of my friends are getting this same some song for free?"*

freshman, Emma Spencer



A pile of burned CDs sit in front of the computer where they were legally downloaded using iTunes. The music was purchased from the iTunes store for 99 cents a song.

Record sales are believed to have dropped due to illegal music downloading or sharing, and some artist think they aren't getting the recognition they deserve.

"I download like one album a month or less," said Spencer. "That's the main reason I use iTunes, so I can buy one song instead of the whole album That's annoying to do if you only like one song off of it."

Companies like Wal-mart and Best Buy who sell CDs are also suffering from

illegal downloading and are attempting to stop downloading to help their business. Consumers purchased 619 million CDs in 2005, dropping from 763 million in 2001, according to an Associated Press story citing the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry.

"I think it's kinda stupid because, I mean it's only a dollar per song. If you don't pay it's an offense to the artist because they won't get the credit they deserve," said freshman Alexis Collins. ★



## Catchy songs, smooth movies: Learning with music brings fun into classrooms

### Music benefits childhood development, teachers see effects in students work

Journalism Student  
Mandy Mendenhall

Over the years, echoes of the ABCs and lyrics from School House Rock have fluttered down elementary school hallways. These tunes and others have provided both teachers and students with the opportunity to learn with music. Ms. Kiely Tanner, preschool teacher at St. Peter's grade school, believes learning with music allows kids to have fun while remembering what they are being taught.

"Research shows that rhyme, rhythm, and movement are the best ways to learn," says Tanner. "The brain responds to it. They remember it."

According to Life Sounds, an entire program dedicated to teaching ways to incorporate music into learning, music is a necessity in the classroom. Music creates a fun, positive learning environment. Catchy songs, poems, and even raps improve memorization and act as a hook for the brain, allowing students to remember information longer.

"They have fun while remem-

bering what they are being taught," says Tanner. "I use music all the time, everyday."

In his article Music and Learning, Chris Brewer discusses the benefits of music in classrooms. Brewer feels that music helps students retain more information, steadies mental rhythms, and allows children to attain deep concentration. The repetition and rhymes present in music aid the auditory memory; therefore, children learn without realizing it.

Ms. Judy Hunt, preschool teacher at St. Thomas More grade school, believes music simplifies everything. Her preschoolers often have difficulty paying attention, but music helps them stay focused.

Music motivates students mentally, physically, and emotionally. Active learning stimulates brain development, so music is often used early with children to begin developing the brain. Hunt uses music in her classroom for these very reasons.

"Music is brain food," says Hunt. "Music makes learning easier. The brain thrives on it."

Instead of sitting in desks or being lectured all day, students who are taught with music have opportunities to participate in class. Creativity, self-expression and imagination stem from music. Students are likely to express their thoughts and feelings through the use of music. Shannon Curry, former student of Tanner's and Hunt's, recalls her experiences

with learning through music.

"Singing was always more fun than note cards," said Curry. "Music was a different and fun way to learn."

Hunt and Tanner use music in their classrooms because they believe it creates a positive learning space and adds fun to the school day.

"I do songs like 'month-a-rena' and 'kiss your brain'," says Tanner. "The kids have so much fun while remembering what I am teaching them."

With new technology, music is becoming more accessible in schools. CDs and DVDs allow teachers more opportunities to use music in their lessons. Schools will soon have the whole curriculum set to music on CDs.

Many students and teachers alike feel that music should continue throughout childhood development. Hunt feels she had great experiences with music in elementary school, long ago.

"Even as old as I am, I was taught with music," laughs Hunt. "Everything is singing. Music helps children learn."

Without the echoes of the ABCs or the lyrics from School House Rock, elementary school hallways would fall silent.

Like Beethoven once said, "Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks, and invents." ★



Ms. Kiely Tanner, preschool teacher at St. Peter's, rehearses a song about the weather with her class.

## Use your ears: Children's center changes face of music

### Center for visually impaired children praises music as great learning tool

Journalism Student  
Shannon Curry

The Children's Center for the Visually Impaired offers a wide variety of courses to teach the visually impaired children how to function normally in the sighted world. Each course is taught differently, however, they all include some aspect of music. Because some of the children have very little sight, music can help them to learn things such as their address and phone number, by singing in a repetitive rhythm.

The Children's Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI) was founded in 1952 in Kansas City, Missouri. Originally called Nursery School for the Blind, CCVI offers a program for children ages 2 through 6 with visual impairments and other disabilities.

In addition to the music in other classes, there is also a time set aside for a specific music class. Volunteer and music teacher, Mrs. Suzanne Burns, leads the children each day at 10:30 a.m. for one hour using a guitar and recorded music. The class focuses on four main parts of the child's brain: using fine motor skills, which works with age appropriate programs, using gross motor skills doing actions such as stomping their feet and clapping, using so-

cial skills by sharing and interacting with other kids and using verbalization skills, which for some students helps with their speech impairments. Burns says that for most children, music gives them a safe place to explore things.

"They [the children] are excited about music; many kids don't get that," said Burns.

On a typical day, the teachers, along with some parents, accompany the children to music class. They use instruments that can adapt to each child; some have wrist and ankle bands for students that cannot hold them properly. Suzanne also has the children incorporate sign language into the songs. For example when singing "Old McDonald", each child makes the sign for cow, pig and horse. Burns also feels that routine is a big part of the students' learning process. She uses a "Hello Song," a "Thank-you Song," a "Good-bye Song," and various others that help the children determine how much longer they will be in music class. Ms. Penny Tate, the Preschool-3 teacher of 15 years, described how music helps the children at CCVI.

"The more ways your brain can learn something, the more senses involved in learning, the better," said Tate.

She said that the more actions the children perform, the more songs they sing and the larger print that some can see, the better. Tate also said that because one sense is cut off from the children, the others must be taught to work stronger to make up for the absent sense. She said she uses music to give instructions, such



Ms. Suzanne Burns, CCVI music teacher, stamps Charlie's hand after he leaves the music room on Monday. Charlie is legally blind and experiences the benefits from the music classes CCVI offers.

as, "This is the way we string our beads..."

Executive Director MaryLynne Dolembro said that music proves to be a more fun way of learning the skills the children need to become more independent. She said there is a common misconception at CCVI that the staff is always trying to

prove wrong.

"[People think CCVI] is a sad place, but these are young children working hard, it's nothing to be sad about," said Dolembro. "I can walk out of my office and hear children laughing and giggling, and that's the joy, that's the true joy!"

Burns said that there is still a lot

that could be perfected in the classes that are offered to the children, but she believes CCVI has many great things to offer.

"Because of CCVI, these kids are so much better off, probably because we expect the most of them so that they can live to their fullest potential," Burns said with a smile. ★



## Tribute band holds concert at KCPL

Wizard-loving muggles come together to enjoy punk rock show

Journalism Student  
Emily Thompson

With blaring drums, intense electric guitar solos, and fans dancing and singing to head-banging beats, punk rock concerts can get pretty wild – especially when the band holds their concert in a library like brothers Joe and Paul DeGeorge did April 1. Harry Potter addicts across Kansas City flocked to the downtown Kansas City Public Library to hear Harry and the Potters raise the library roof belting out lyrics about their favorite teenage wizard.

“It was totally awesome,” said pianist and singer Joe DeGeorge. “We came to the library to rock out, and we rocked it down.”

The DeGeorge brothers have been rockin’ down library roofs singing about Harry Potter since the summer of 2002 when they created Harry and the Potters in their hometown Norwood, Massachusetts. They had planned a concert in their backyard featuring several different bands, all of which cancelled hours before the concert was set to begin. Thinking quick, guitarist and singer Paul DeGeorge suggested creating a band about Harry Potter.

“I just thought for some reason something about Harry’s character struck me,” said Paul DeGeorge. “Harry is kind of single-minded. He is an individual, which encompasses a lot of what punk rock is about... You sort of need that individual thing about yourself to perform music.”

Thus, Harry and the Potters were born. The brothers wrote seven songs that morning and performed them for their friends later in the evening. As the band gained more and more fans, they began to perform in libraries and bookstores in the Boston area. Eventually they went on tour and now play in venues around the nation. Harry Potter fans in Kansas City were delighted when the DeGeorge brothers played at Kansas City Public Library. STA sophomore Anna Boisseau was one of many who enjoyed Harry and the Potters’ April 1 performance.

“I thought it was fun,” said Boisseau. “They did so much audience interaction and I thought it was cool.”

Boisseau, an ardent fan of the Harry Potter books since third grade, had some reservations about the concert, but was pleasantly surprised.

“At first I thought it was gonna be kinda nerdy,” said Boisseau. “And it kinda was, but they totally made fun of it. They were like, ‘Yeah! Were gonna rock out in the library!’”

Boisseau isn’t the only one who digs the idea of a concert in a library. Paul DeGeorge believes playing in libraries is part of the band’s unique appeal.

“They like the idea of doing something not normal, something different, like coming to a library to see a concert,” said Paul DeGeorge.

The majority of the band’s fan base consists of novel enthusiasts such as Boisseau, who discovered the band through the internet in October 2005.

“I saw them on MySpace,” said Boisseau. “I thought their name was



Paul DeGeorge, 26, rocks out at the Harry and the Potters concert held in the Helzberg Auditorium of the downtown Kansas City Public Library, April 1. DeGeorge formed Harry and the Potters along with brother, Joe DeGeorge, 18, in 2002 and the band has been touring for the past two years.

funny so I looked on it and I liked the music.”

Boisseau was surprised by the quality of their punk rock music.

“When I first heard about them, I expected them to be really bad, but they’re actually pretty good for singing about Harry Potter,” said Boisseau.

The DeGeorge brothers said they go through the books searching for good ideas and highlight significant details.

“We usually pick out something we think merits a song; something significant enough that Harry would write about it,” said Paul DeGeorge.

According to Joe DeGeorge,

the brothers generally try to make the band like they imagine Harry would if he wasn’t so busy playing Quidditch and saving the wizarding world.

“We put some of our own personality into it, but we try to stay true to Harry’s character,” said Joe DeGeorge.

Fans recognize the band’s authenticity and bring their enthusiasm to the concerts.

“Most of our fans are big into reading and want to have a good time,” said Paul DeGeorge. “That’s the best kind of fans. Fans that come ready to rock.” ★



Toni Lee Caldwell waits for her ride home after a flute lesson at the Toon Shop, April 17. A set of “Rythm Art” drums was displayed in the front showcase of the store at the time.

## Students discuss private lessons versus orchestra

Musicians reflect on the benefits and downfalls of options

Journalism Student  
Mary Lee Ptacek

You take a few steps down a narrow flight of stairs. Music floats to your ears, the soft notes of a flute mingling with the raucous music of an electric guitar. The hallways are narrow and dimly lit, lined with doors that boast many unique posters on the front. You are in the basement of the Toon Shop.

The Toon Shop, Number 15 On the Mall at Prairie Village Shopping Center, is not only an actual shop, but also a school of music. The upper level of the Toon Shop is a store with a wide variety of instruments, sheet music, and plenty of merchandise adorned with musical notes. The basement, however, is a school, and a citadel for lovers of all types of music.

Since 1948, the Toon Shop has offered private lessons for students of every age. Almost every day of the week, students fill the hallways with their well-prepared music, whether it be a classical piece or a modern song.

Students’ private lessons at the Toon Shop are sometimes complimented by orchestra classes, which are offered in most high schools in the Kansas City area. The orchestra environment offers the benefit of learning how to play in harmony, and of having the overall effect in which the sounds of many different instruments blend together to create a beautiful piece. However, there are different benefits to each option of private lessons and orchestra.

April Ladishleff, an employee at the Toon Shop, took orchestra for four years, and attended private lessons on and off for two years.

“I’d just have to say that [orchestra] was better because you were sharing that experience with other people,” said Ladishleff. “It brings people together who normally wouldn’t be together.”

Ladishleff plays not only the violin, guitar, and bass, but also sings. She has recently produced her own c.d.

“I just love singing. You can’t bring out the same emotions with an instrument as your voice,” said Ladishleff.

Diana Byrne, a freshman at Sion, takes clarinet lessons at the Toon Shop, and plays in the orchestra at her school.

“I took private lessons because my teacher suggested it,” said Byrne. “Plus, I wanted to get help on a solo so I could go to districts.”

Byrne plays in both orchestra and private lessons, but others, like Roni Katz, do not participate in orchestra, yet are very devoted to their instrument.

Katz, a sophomore at STA, played guitar on her own for about a year, and then started taking lessons at the Toon Shop in eighth grade.

“I like learning songs that I enjoy – songs that I’m going to actually play – instead of doing drills, or something like ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb.’” said Katz.

The best aspects of private lessons are varied – the individual attention, the personal preferences for songs, but are there any downfalls to these lessons?

Byrne and Ladishleff each agree on the least enjoyable aspect of lessons: the hours that go into practicing.

“Practicing gets tedious,” said Ladishleff. Byrne agrees that, after a while, practicing scales may get boring.

Katz, however, does not find practicing to be dull, but encounters another obstacle.

“I don’t find a lot of time to practice,” said Katz. “I’m really involved in school and temple.”

So whether it is caused by time constraints, or the general dullness of playing the same scales repeatedly, practicing is probably the least likable part of private lessons.

As you walk back up the narrow staircase, a grin appears on your face. You’ve just spent 30 minutes (to an hour) practicing an instrument that you love. But, as the music from other instruments engulf you on your way out the door – you divulge yourself in a moment of pride. For after all, these private lessons do make one feel well prepared for whatever the next orchestra class may possibly bring. ★



# Alumna maintains leadership role in Irish dancing



CAITLIN O'ROURKE

**Colleen O'Rourke, an advanced beginner of the O' Riada Academy of Irish Dance, practices on her front porch for an upcoming competition. O'Rourke hopes that her hard work will show when she performs at her competition.**

## Luck of the Irish, dedication allows alumna Emily Fuchs to succeed

Journalism Student  
Caitlin O'Rourke

Emily Fuchs, STA alumna, steps onto the Irish dancing stage feeling apprehensive. Fuchs takes a deep breath, embraces the moment and presents herself to the audience.

"It is easy to become nervous even to the point where I cannot feel my legs; but I just have fun and soak it all in," said Fuchs.

Music is critical to the art of Irish dance and is celebrated at many Kansas City festivals, including the Kansas City Irish Fest.

"In Irish dance the music is more about the rhythm, unlike ballet which is more classical and flowing," said Fuchs.

Reels, jigs and hornpipes make up Irish music. It originates from Ireland and uses the accordion, violin and harp. Fuchs said that it contains a "country-blue grass feel."

"When I hear the music it depends on the particular dance," said Fuchs. "For instance the slip jig is graceful and very feminine unlike the reel which is more energetic and vivacious."

Each different dance has its own song with a unique beat and tune.

"My set dance, 'the story teller,' contains many ups and downs; like a story it contains a climax," said Fuchs.

According to Irelandsye.com, a power struggle occurred in the 1600's between the English and the Irish with laws banning Catholic education and parts of its culture. Irish dance was a major part of the Catholic society. People danced in secret so that the English officials would not know.

"In Irish dance hands are at your side," said Fuchs. "Several hundred years ago it wasn't okay to socialize and dance, so when officials would walk by the upper body remained still, and the officials would not know."

Irish culture has emerged in the Kansas City area the past few years. Both Irish music and dance have gained a foothold.

"It's a traditional and cultural expression of Ireland, originally meant as a way

to socialize with family and friends that over the years has developed into flashy performances and intense dance competitions," said Fuchs.

Fuchs graduated from STA in 2002 and now attends the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Fuchs admits that it is stressful balancing college, work and dance, especially during the competitive season.

In the last 12 years, Fuchs has received many prestigious awards. She feels that her best accomplishment was when she placed 31st out of 108 competitors in the 2000 World Championships. She was the first student from her dance school, the O' Riada Academy of Irish Dance, to qualify. Fuchs's accomplishments serve to inspire her peers.

"Emily is a role model because she is hard working and has fun," said junior Shannon Feehan of St. Thomas Aquinas, a member of the O' Riada Academy of Irish Dance.

Sophomore Maggie Finn of St. Pius X, a member of the O' Riada Academy of Irish Dance, also admires Fuchs's determination.

"Emily affects class because she always tends to keep us on track and is a role model to many of us because she is so determined and hardworking," said Finn.

It is her parents' support that helps keep her focused. Fuchs said that her mom has sacrificed a lot so that she could continue dancing and has always been there for her. She said that her dad was a great motivator.

"My dad always told me to do my personal best and just have fun," said Fuchs.

Fuchs said that it was a blessing to have two supportive parents.

"When my dad passed away his words became my motivation and Irish dance became an outlet for me," said Fuchs.

Being about 1/16th Irish, Fuchs feels that she has been adopted into the Irish community. Fuchs' teacher, Christine O' Riada of the O' Riada Academy of Irish dance has also heavily influenced her career.

"At first she saw the fire in me, despite poor technique; I was dedicated," said Fuchs.

Fuchs' determination helped her overcome obstacles.

"I started out with pigeon toes and thick glasses known as 'cute little Emily' and to become up there in the Irish dancing community is the ultimate success," said Fuchs. ★

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The Dart

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St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

The Second Annual Shamrockin' In Westport will take place May 13, featuring the Seven Nations at 7:00 p.m. and The Elders at 9:00 p.m. The outdoor concert event will be held in the parking lot across the street from the Beaumont Club on Pennsylvania.

Tickets are \$10 (Kids 5 & under free) and can be purchased at the show or from Browne's Market & Deli, Sheehan's Irish Imports, the Irish Crystal Company, and Kelly's Westport Inn.

# KC reggae band aims for stardom in music scene

## KC homegrown group, Duo Trio, hopes to share feel-good vibe with fans

Journalism Student  
Caroline Quinn

Ears ring and the basement floor vibrates as three men enjoy their pastime. Sweat trickles from their pores and their hands throb from the constant motion of their fingers sliding against string and wood. After hours of practice, including calloused fingers and sore throats, they wallow in achievement at the sight of grooving bodies and bobbling heads.

"When you get a big turn out from people that you've invited personally and called and then you get people coming from just word of mouth, that's when things start to get really dope," said Mr. Mickey Finn, the Duo Trio guitarist and lead vocalist. "Then you start getting a lot of bodies in front of you and that's a real rush."

According to Finn, the Duo Trio formed a year ago after several break-ups, side projects and online ads. Mickey and his youngest brother, David, combined their musical interests and began playing tunes and writing songs. David met drummer Joe Pound at his work and introduced him to Mickey. The threesome created the Redeye Masters, but soon they went their separate ways. Mickey Finn and Joe

Pound stayed in touch, but it wasn't until months later that they established their most thriving band.

"[Pound] and I were jamming for six or eight months, you know, it was like forever just learning these songs and writing and stuff," said Finn. "We didn't have a bass player, so eventually we ran an ad online, and Rich [Hill] called and that's how it came about, around a year ago."

From their success at Club Wars, a local battle of the bands competition, the Duo Trio has snagged nearly 20 gigs around Kansas City in the past nine months. They showcased at venues famous for supporting rising acts like the Bottleneck and the Hurricane. Aside from hitting up metro businesses, the band occasionally plays basement shows.

"We were at a basement party and all these high school kids knew the words to our songs and were singing along," said Hill. "It was crazy. It just makes you play better I think."

With the success of their music and shows, the Duo Trio headed to a studio to record their first album. This CD, "Soul Medicine," contains eight original tracks. Pound and other band members say that their music doesn't follow a format and each track differs from the other. They think their variety of musical influences mesh to form fun music that makes people dance.

"We don't really have a message in our music," said Finn. "We just like to have fun and make people groove. If there is any message, it's probably just optimism."



CAROLINE QUINN

**Mr. Joe Pound of the Duo Trio performs during the band's show April 13 at Harry T's Corner Bar. The Duo Trio have performed about 20 shows since forming one year ago.**

We don't want to jam the truth down people's throats."

For these reasons, Mr. Michael Schult, owner and operator of Schult Productions in Belton, was eager to begin recording "Soul Medicine" for the Duo Trio. According to Schult, they have a unique mix of rock, punk, and reggae that make them special. However, Schult also believes the band may be tiring themselves.

"Critically, I think that sometimes they, Mickey in particular, might work a

little too hard to try to achieve a perfection in the recording process that takes away from some of the character of the recording," said Schult.

With weekly performances and the new album in order, the Duo Trio members have full-time jobs, not to mention their career duties and responsibilities as fathers and husbands. The "rock star" life appears glamorous, but the Duo Trio admits that this business requires hard work, dedication, and support from family and friends. ★



# Father, daughter bond over musical interests

Lead singer of The Elders bestows musical talents on his daughter

Journalism Student  
Allison Pointer

Behind the florescent lights glowing on stage, behind his voice hovering into the microphone, behind the lyrics and the energy, Mr. Ian Byrne, lead singer of The Elders, a local Celtic Rock band, has shared his music with Kansas City, but for his youngest daughter Andreina Byrne, his music has given her something more: an unique bond with her dad.

"We are inseparable," said Byrne. "We know each other like the back of our hands."

Four years ago, Ms. Kathy Quinn Byrne and Ms. Cynthia Hoad sat on the sidelines of their daughters' soccer game and discovered many similarities. Both of their girls attended Cure of Ars School and played on the soccer team, both were in the TV business and both of their husbands were musicians.

"You could pretty much say it was all me [who got him in the band]," said Andreina Byrne.

Mr. Brent Hoad, fiddler for The Elders, asked Byrne to do a guest spot. Soon after he was asked to be their lead vocalist.

"He was never really a singer before," said Andreina Byrne. "They just needed him and he could do it so he did."

Andreina believes that her dad's talent has inspired her and her two siblings, 19-year-old Kian Byrne and 18-year-old Kaitlin Byrne. Her brother, Kian, has several bands that include jazz, rock and Celtic. Kaitlin is a pianist and sings in the choir at Bishop Miega High School. Andreina, who has played the violin since she was four years old, recently picked up the piano and competes with the O' Riada Academy of Irish Dance.

"I know Andreina could have talent ever since she could walk," said Byrne.

Two years ago, Ian Byrne was performing at the KC Irish Fest, when he asked Andreina to dance with him on stage.



Andreina Byrne, left, listens to her father, Mr. Ian Byrne, as he plays the flute in their kitchen April 8. She laughed and continually questioned how he was able to play so quickly.

"She got up and found that it is very contagious and decided she liked it," Byrne said.

Andreina's best friend Sarah Resovich, shared on what she saw when she gets on stage.

"She's nervous before she gets on stage," Resovich said. "But once she's up there I can see she's confident and happy."

Resovich also notices the closeness between them.

"They are always joking around with each other and I never see him mad at her," said Resovich. "He really does a lot for

her."

Even after 30 years in the spotlight, Ian Byrne said that he still gets nervous before a performance. Besides their mutual feelings on performing, they have more similarities.

"We can relate in lots of ways," said Andreina. "He always shows me his new songs. Sometimes he will come in at one in the morning and wake me up to show me what he was working on. I will usually tell him then if I like it or not."

But with his job there are sacrifices. The Elders travel all over, spreading their music. Unfortunately for those 20-30 weeks of Byrne's absence, much is missed.

"It was hard at the beginning," said Andreina. "He was always gone and we thought that that was more important to him than us. It just started out with little stuff like missing games or whatever."

But when he comes home, his daughter knows that is not the case.

"Now I'm glad he's in it," said Andreina. "It's his dream so it's cool to see him doing what he loves."

Each believes that what they have together is special, and part of that is because of the music.

"She's everything a dad would want in a daughter and more," said Byrne. ★

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## ★in brief

The Elders will perform three times in the Kansas City area throughout the month of May. Their first concert of the month will be May 13 at Shamrockin' in Westport. They will then play May 27 at The Woodlands in Kansas City, KS for The Great American Barbecue. They will perform the following day for the Fourth Annual Celtic block Party at Governor Stumpy's.

# Local Irish band appeals to people of all ages

The Elders draw large crowds with lively lyrics, fun performances

Journalism Student  
Carlie Campbell

Celtic rock is not what the local radio station plays nonstop or something people wait in line for hours to buy when a new album comes out. Yet fans abound. Many STA students listen to Celtic rock, particularly the local Irish band, The Elders.

"I don't know [why I like them]," said sophomore Mary Clara Hutchison. "It's just kind of different, like Irish music mixed with rock and roll."

Hutchison has been interested in The Elders when she saw them perform a couple years ago at their annual multi-band concert, the Hoolie.

The lead singer of The Elders, Mr. Ian Byrne, said that people of all ages attend their concerts, explaining part of the band's success.

"I have this photograph in my mind," Byrne said. "We were playing at the Beaumont Club about two years ago and I remember this mosh-pit of people dancing in front of the stage and right up front there was this 70 year old grandma with her five year old grandson on her shoulders."

Freshman Maggie Burke's parents saw The Elders at the Kansas City Irish Fest and introduced her to them.

"They're just a fun band and they like to get the crowd involved and stuff," said

Burke.

Sophomore Mary Clara Hutchison also shares her enthusiasm for The Elders with her family. They attend several concerts a year, including the Kansas City Irish Fest.

"My brother likes to go and sit backstage and watch," said Hutchison. "It's just really fun when they let us up on stage and we dance behind them."

Byrne has a policy with his band that, no matter how many people are in the crowd, whether it's one or 1,000, "to give it their all."

"I like going to concerts, but some of these bands, you look up on stage, and they don't even look like they want to be there," Byrne said. "When the audience appreciates you, you feed off that."

But The Elders do not struggle to attract large audiences. Over 16,000 people attended the 2005 Kansas City Irish Fest.

Burke said she likes The Elders for their enthusiasm and lyrics. Byrne attributes his musical success to writing from experience.

"I can't write about something I don't know anything about," Byrne said.

He pulls from his childhood in County Wycklow, Ireland and uses the fast tempos that Celtic music is known for.

Celtic music has been around for centuries and is one of many roots of bluegrass and rock and roll. Celtic lyrics do not try to be cryptic or politically correct.

"We're not a political band," Byrne said. "I'm not pro-IRA or pro-Protestant or pro-Catholic. I'm just a guy with kids."

Byrne enjoys writing and performing. Byrne relies on his family to help him manage



Drummer Tom Sutherland keeps time at The Elders practice session April 4. Sutherland has been with the band since 2003 and plays drums and percussions.

his woodworking company and The Elders.

"You're only as good as the people around you," said Byrne. "I'm very fortunate to have great kids and a great wife to support me."

Byrne has been with The Elders for four years out of the eight that they have been together.

"I think in The Elders career, the high-

light has been the Kansas City Irish Fest at Crown Center," said Byrne. "We closed off the night and there were about a thousand people there. It seemed like everyone knew our music and the lyrics to our songs. The most beautiful thing is when you've written a song about a story of something that's happened to you, and all of a sudden there's people singing it back to you." ★

CARLIE CAMPBELL



# College student puts new spin on musical career



## College senior Dan Martin owns recording studio, plays guitar, DJs

Journalism Student  
Hannah Bailey

When Rockhurst University senior Dan Martin was in eighth grade, he took his first step onto the Kansas City music scene by learning to play guitar. Since then, Martin has taken his involvement in local music to a different level by playing in bands, opening a recording studio and becoming a DJ.

Martin believes that his main accomplishment has been starting a recording studio, Upstairs Audio. Martin and his friend, Mr. Miles Turney, formed the studio four years ago in Turney's bedroom. What started out as a hobby progressed after Turney was injured in a car accident and received \$12,000 out of the settlement. After using the money to buy better equipment, the studio quickly progressed.

"Now it is in the third floor of my house," said Martin. "And it used to be in the El Torreon."

Martin has recorded many bands, but is most proud of the second album that he recorded for the local punk band Tanka Ray. The album was never released due to the band's deformation, but Martin was still pleased with the outcome.

"It was the one that I put the most into," said Martin. "We spent so long on it, almost a year, which is a really long time for a punk band to spend on an album."

Other than recording local bands, Martin has also recorded Chicago based band Insurance, Grasshopper Takeover from Omaha and a mariachi band from Texas.

"I will record forever," said Martin. "I don't know if it will be my career per say, but I will always have the ability to record."

Martin's interest in recording originally stemmed from his learning to play

the six-string guitar and bass guitar.

"When I was in eighth grade, all the kids on my street started learning to play instruments, and I wanted to hang out with them," said Martin. "And to impress the girls."

Even before Martin learned to play, his mother, Ms. Julie Koppen, recognized his musical potential. Koppen says that when Martin was a baby, he used to bang his legs on the car seat in tune to the music. Since then, Martin has continued to surprise Koppen with his abilities.

"I was like, 'I can't believe that you're really going to be able to do this at such a young age,'" said Koppen of Martin's recording. "I had no idea that he knew what he was doing, it was amazing."

Another of Martin's musical achievements is his involvement in disc jockeying. He has been a DJ since his freshman year in college, and he now plays music at all the Rockhurst High School dances, other school functions, weddings and private parties.

"He likes to get people to get up and move," said Martin's sister sophomore Anna Martin. "He makes it a good time."

Though Martin feels that his main interest is recording, he enjoys being a DJ as well, except when he is restricted to only playing music.

"I like the younger crowd," said Martin. "I did old people weddings and they don't really listen to the same music. They always ask for weird songs that I don't really listen to. For me, it's not fun."

Though Martin is busy recording and being a DJ, he still makes time to play. He has been in many bands, but is currently involved in a group that is more concerned with having a good time than playing music.

"I guess it's mainly more like cracking jokes and playing funny songs, and making up funny songs than it is like 'oh, we're so serious about this music, it's our life,' and stuff like that," said Martin. "We don't really play that game." ★

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HANNAH BAILEY

Rockhurst University senior Dan Martin works with sound equipment April 13 at the theater. Martin's recording experience allows him to easily use other sound equipment.

### ★in brief

American idol winner Kelly Clarkson will visit Kansas City July 21. She will perform at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in Bonner Springs. Tickets for her summer 2006 Addicted tour will cost between \$70.00 for lawn seats and \$150.00 for front row seats. She won two Grammy awards Feb. 9. "Since U Been Gone" won for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, and Breakaway won for Best Pop Vocal Album.

# Teen attempts to bring rap into churches

## Aspiring DJ searches for acceptance of personal expressions of faith

Journalism Student  
Chelsie Duckworth

Music and religion both play their part in American culture. Rap is one aspect of music that has influenced urban culture for years and some people are trying to incorporate it into their faith.

Adam Doria, an aspiring DJ and home-schooled sophomore has been experimenting with the combination since fourth grade, when he first heard Christian rap. He developed his love of music listening to rappers like Run DMC, Jam Master Jay and the Beastie Boys, and wanted to be like them.

"You have to figure I went to an all black school, so the only music I listened to was rap," said Doria. "Eminem was already a white rapper, so I figured I might as well become a DJ."

Doria's goal is to become a producer and bring diverse music into a Christian setting, especially where he attends church at the International House of Prayer (IHOP).

"I want to show [the people at my church] something new; show them that rap is not a scary thing and get them to accept urban culture," said Doria.

Doria disc jockeys for a variety of

events, using many genres of music, and some people are concerned with the idea of mixing in the rap beats with Christian songs.

"There are all kinds of reasons why people wouldn't accept rap in the church," said Mr. Tony Wright, a member of Christ the King parish in Kansas City. "Some people don't think it is reverent and that it destroys the feeling they get from going to church because they don't appreciate it."

Despite others' oppositions, Doria gets a lot of support from his family and friends like Ju'an Cochrane, a junior at Center High School.

"I've always been there," said Cochrane. "Whatever he wants to do, he'll do it; I'm just there to get the mind going a little bit."

Doria has been making beats for Cochrane to rap to since middle school.

"We mess around and we make something out of nothing," said Cochrane.

Doria is not sure that people will accept his music, but Cochrane supports his friend and keeps him going.

"I like how he puts a lot of energy and passion into [making music]," said Cochrane. "I have faith in what he is doing and as much time as he puts into it, it will pay off in the end."

Doria feels that the church is just intimidated by secular rap because they are not used to it.

"[The IHOP members] think that rap music only promotes the party scene; I want to get them out of that mind-set,"



Adam Doria, 17, displays his drumline skills in his basement April 13. Doria uses his talent to relieve stress and test new rhythms.

said Doria.

Doria and Cochrane feel that if church members gave their music a chance, they would love it.

"It is okay with me if they are praising God that way because if they are still praising God it shouldn't matter," said STA sophomore Olivia DeSimio.

The objective for Doria is to influence not only the church to accept more diverse music but to influence rappers to be more religious and respectful in their lyrics.

"I want it to be less Christian rap and more rapping about God; to have inspirational words mixed to tight beats," said Doria.

Trying to make a difference in the church has made Doria more aware of the difficulty in achieving his dream, but he hopes to accomplish his goals.

"I don't think I will start a huge movement, but I think more people will appreciate [rap] as spiritual music," said Doria. ★



# Classic rock finds young audience

Retro music appeals to a new audience with original songs, melodies

Journalism Student  
Maura Lammers

Classic rock music has made a glorious and surprising comeback in the last year or so, and teenagers are the motivation behind its sudden rise in popularity. The proof of this statement is everywhere. Old rockers like Journey, Queen, Aerosmith, are appearing on iTunes lists of the top downloaded songs. Most teenagers – and plenty of adults, too – have a Beatles T-shirt hanging in their closet.

“Overtime, everything comes back again,” said Oak Park High School freshman James Schneider. “It’s like an epidemic.”

According to an article published in Rolling Stone Magazine, 2.3 million teenagers tune into classic rock radio stations a week, and twenty percent of all Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin albums sold between 2002 and 2005 were bought by teenagers.

Classic rock may be catching on to the masses, but there have always been kids and teenagers who love the music, such as sophomore Ashtin Bryde.

“I love classic rock for what makes it classic,” Bryde said. “All of my favorite bands recorded original, well-written songs that today’s music can’t even be compared to.”

Some claim that the doors unofficially opened for classic rock’s comeback during an episode of the MTV reality series Laguna Beach, when Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believin’” played. The 1981 song quickly became a hit all over again, as it was downloaded on iPods, playing at high school dances, and even on the radio again.

Mr. Mike Eldridge, creator of Fuzz Artists record label, isn’t surprised by the increase in classic rock’s popularity.

“It’s great music that’s survived the test of time,” Eldridge said.

While classic rock music is definitely coming back, it’s still not as popular as hip hop or rap music. Take a look at the Billboard Hot 100; the music charts are heavily dominated by rap, hip hop, and pop songs, and a wave of new artists is



Steve Kimble tunes his guitar in his basement April 5. “I live to play along with what I’m listening to and ad-lib,” Kimble said.

collecting hits, as well as a young fan base.

Sophomore Elizabeth Nelson, however, prefers classic rock to what’s playing on the radio these days.

“Rap, hip-hop, and pop all sound the same to me – like all the songs are just copies of one another,” Nelson said. “There’s no originality. I like that classic rock songs are good without being explicit.”

Eldridge agrees that the lack of creativity in the music business today is overwhelming.

“[The music] moved into big business with big companies and powerful business leaders driving the product,” Eldridge said. “It moved from a cultural movement to big business. It was less about getting art out to people and more about making a product to sell.”

Mr. Steve Kimble, an engineer who grew up listening to the Beatles and the Beach Boys, also believes that today’s music is completely different from the music of the 1960s and 70s.

“If you look at what the kids are listening to now, you’ve heard it go

from punk to grunge to rap,” Kimble said. “In high school, [some friends and I] were talking about where music was going. A friend of mine thought music was going to be more rhythm, and less melody, and he was right.”

In terms of music composition, Schneider thinks the element of heavy guitar chords that’s crucial in any rock anthem is what sets classic rock apart.

“Every type of music has its own catch to it... but rock gives off a different kind of beat.” Schneider said.★

# The Beatles influence a new generation

The band’s reputation remains strong; message reaches new audiences including STA students

Journalism Student  
Elizabeth McNamara

In the 1960’s, The Beatles grew from a local band in Liverpool, England, to a world-renowned band that would start a cultural revolution and tour the globe. The Beatles uphold a strong reputation even today, while most classic rock is considered “a thing of the past.” The Beatles continue to influence the lives of many teenagers and are a part of every day media.

There are many arguable reasons for The Beatles’ success. Different viewpoints include lyrics, the beat of their songs, messages, or their outlook on life. As rock musician Lenny Kravitz commented, “The music is the bottom

line. If their music wasn’t good, we wouldn’t be discussing them right now,” according to cyber-beatles.com.

“I think The Beatles are timeless because the beat of their songs never gets old,” said freshman Martha Tillmon. “Their messages are universal and everyone can relate to them.”

Freshmen Maura Lammers agrees with Tillmon.

“The meanings of the songs are simple,” said Lammers. “Their messages reach out to a lot of people, and they have touched so many lives.”

Regardless the reason, The Beatles have influenced popular culture greatly. Before the Beatles emerged as timeless musicians, it was common for pop and rock bands to hire professional songwriters and studio musicians for their music. Rock bands today continue to follow the Beatles’ example of self-composition.

Self-composition is not the only continuous trend The Beatles have set. John Lennon named a guitar effect known as “flanging,” a common vocal or guitar effect where two copies of the

same sound were overlapped and shifted slightly.

Ringo Starr changed the traditional way of holding drum sticks, and the members of The Beatles set trends even with the brands of instruments they used. For example, Starr used Ludwig drum sets, which quickly became the standard for rock and roll bands, and Rickenbacker guitars, which Lennon used, have been widely used since the mid 1960’s.

Harrison was the first musician of a rock and roll band in the 60’s to use the sitar. Soon after, this instrument was used by many other bands, including The Rolling Stones, Love and Donovan.

“They were carefree and didn’t care what other people thought about them,” said Tillmon.

The Beatles influence also consisted of art, fashion, films, and hair styles. During the time of their fame, trends and styles popped up mimicking The Beatles. Their timeless music and trends remain profound, and their influence has become a tremendous legacy throughout the years.★



Freshman Emily Schapker shows off her Beatles T-shirt.

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## ★in brief

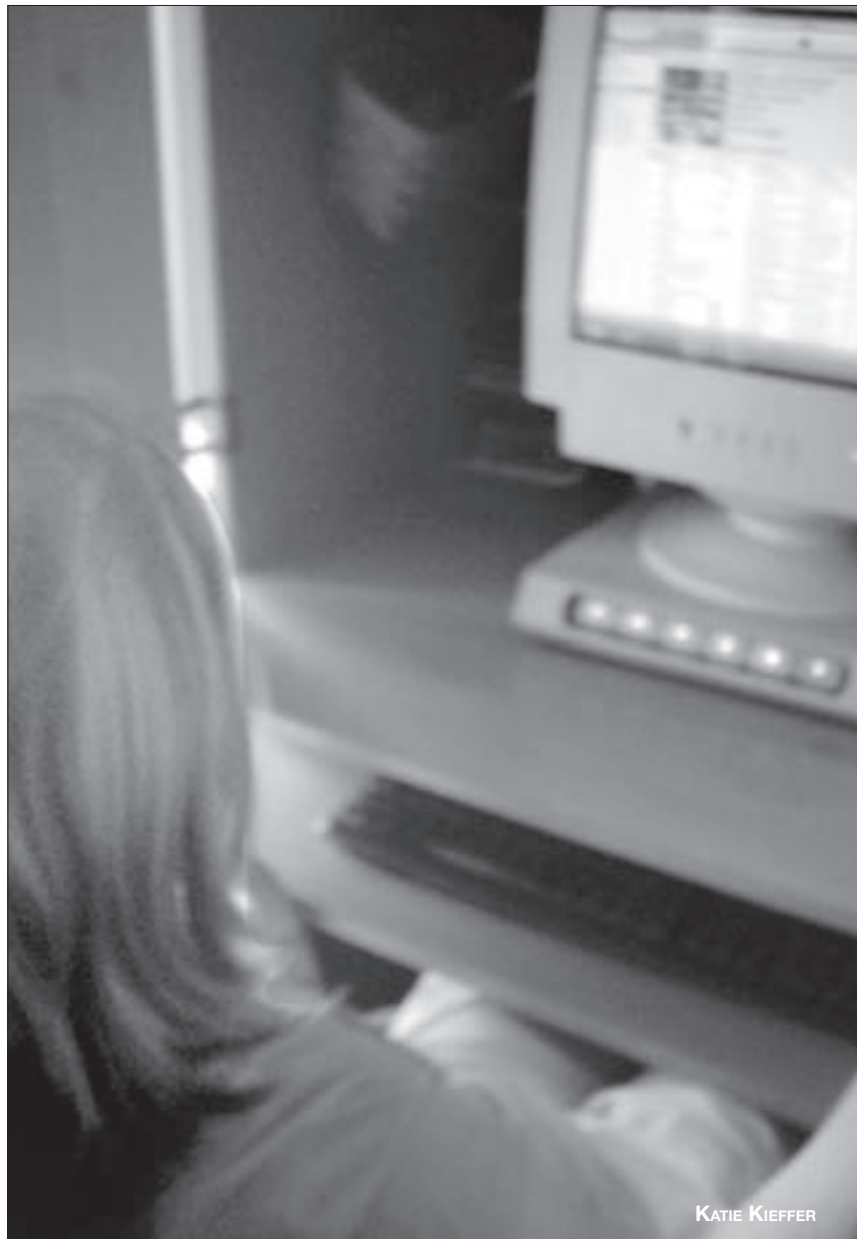
The Rolling Stones’ guitarist Keith Richards, 62, was flown to Auckland, New Zealand last weekend for observation after sustaining a mild concussion while on vacation in Fiji.

The Stones’ camp is not releasing the details of what actually happened, but various news reports have claimed that the rocker fell from a coconut tree, a personal water craft or a combination of the two.

Richard’s is said to be recovering well and the Stones plan on beginning the European leg of their world tour on schedule, beginning with Barcelona, Spain on May 27.



# Apple a leader in providing downloads



## Students prefer iTunes over CDs, similar downloading programs

Journalism Student  
Katie Kieffer

Just a few years ago, a music listener had to buy an entire CD to listen to the song they like. Over the past year, CD sales have dropped 7 percent, while legal downloading has increased 148 percent, according to the ARS Technical web site. This may be caused by the many people who are journeying into the "world" of legalized music downloading. Now, rather than paying up to \$20 for a CD, the song you want to hear will cost less than \$1.

Music is a major part of our everyday lives. According to sophomore, Sarah Luecke and freshman Emma Spencer, students listen to music as they do their daily activities. Many believe that much of this rise in the music audience is due to the portability of music through downloading programs. With over 500 million songs sold through downloading (news.com), iTunes has changed the way music listeners buy and listen to music.

According to Luecke, downloading through iTunes has become a part of her life.

"My entire music collection is on iTunes," said Luecke. "I listen to music all the time."

iTunes allows millions of its registered buyers the ability to select individual songs they like without the commitment of buying the entire CD. With over 1,000,000 songs at the user's fingertips, the buyer can search and choose songs by artist name, album title, or song title. There are many reasons that contribute to the popularity of iTunes. Everyone has different reasons why iTunes is their personal favorite.

Libby Kieffer, a seventh grader at Visitation School, has recently switched to iTunes.

"I like the fact that it is so easy to personalize everything," said Kieffer. "If

you wanted to, you can even name your iPod."

Others enjoy its ease of use. "My favorite thing about [iTunes] is that it is so easy to use and figure out, and downloading doesn't take very long," said Spencer.

With everything you need right there on your computer screen, iTunes makes it easy to organize your songs. With the click of a button, the users such as Spencer, Luecke, and Kieffer are able to create playlists, and then upload them to their iPods.

Although many consider this to be the best downloading program to use, according to Spencer, there are also a few disadvantages to the program.

"Sometimes they don't always have the song I want," said Spencer.

According to Luecke, iTunes offers software updates every time one is available and problems can result from not updating regularly.

"If you don't keep up with updating, it can cause [iTunes] to run really slowly," said Luecke. "This can also cause iTunes [software] to not recognize your iPod."

Although iTunes allows its users to download today's latest songs, some of its users have tried other downloading software. They have found other programs work almost as well, but to them iTunes offers more options. Not only can you download MP3s, the user is able to download books, sparknotes, music videos, season passes to TV shows, and episodes of TV shows.

"With my old mp3 player, I downloaded songs from Wal-mart.com," Kieffer said. "It only cost 88 cents and they had a lot of songs. I switched to iTunes when I got my iPod." Luecke agrees with Kieffer that other programs work well also.

The current trend shows that more people are choosing to download their music, instead of buying CDs. Some believe that downloading will become the way people will choose to fulfill all their entertainment needs.

"Altogether, I think iTunes has changed the way we listen to music, watch television, and even read books," said Spencer. ★

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KATIE KIEFFER

Libby Kieffer scrolls through iTunes on her home computer, April 17. Kieffer has used iTunes for one month and enjoys being able to buy and listen to music.

## ★in brief

MediaBay, a digital media company that specializes in audio entertainment, has launched a subscription-based audio news service called the SoundsGood Newscast. The service uses two different English-language sources: The Hindustan Times and a news service powered by Taldia.

Customers can personalize their newscasts by choosing certain topics that interest them and scheduling daily feeds to their computers, iPods or other MP3 devices.

After a fourteen day trial period, subscribers to the Hindustan Times pay \$9.95 per month and Taldia service costs \$4.95 per month.

## Doctors test teens for ear damage, advise them to turn volume down

Journalism Student  
Katie Gassman

Apple has sold 14 million iPods in the past four years, setting up a huge percent of the United States for hearing loss. A survey conducted by WebMD Medical News shows that 59 percent of students listen to their iPods loudly.

It is said that today's iPod generation will develop hearing problems within the next ten years. It is the listeners that turn the volume up more than sixty percent who will be most affected. Listening for long periods of time will also contribute to the damage.

According to WebMD, that 29 percent of students have admitted to having hearing problems. Seventeen percent have had ringing in the ears, however, both statistics are expected to grow in the next ten years.

Dr. Anuradha Sarma, a pediatrician at Cass County Pediatrics and Adolescents, had a pretty clear guideline on how loud to listen.

"[Never listen] above 90 decibels—midrange either in their portable player or

car, especially over a period greater than several minutes," she said.

Teens turn it up so regularly that they do not even notice. Every time there is any interference with their music, teens turn the volume up to drown out the background noise.

"I start out with the volume low, but when people are talking around me, I turn it up," said freshman Madelyn Effertz.

With different people listening at different measures and lengths, it is said that ear damage will be different for each individual.

"Hearing loss is probably going to be moderate and irreversible for people who chronically use portable players for periods more than a half-hour at high volume," said Sarma.

However, there are ways to prevent hearing loss while enjoying music. For example, it is safer to use external headphones rather than the earbuds that come with iPods. However, the most important is to always be aware of how high the volume is and to not listen for a long time. Apple now has free software which they have just made available to set limits on maximum volume control on their players. Dr. Sarma recommends doing this.

"If prevention measures are taken within five years for people who listen to the iPod above 90 decibels, the no further damage should occur," said Sarma. ★

# iPods increase risk of hearing loss



A.J. Gassman, an 8th grader at St. Thomas Moore, listens to loud music while talking to friends online.

KATIE GASSMAN



# From nano to video: iPods prove popular at STA

Students voice their opinions on the device and its impact

Journalism Student  
Brenna Mitchell

Between classes, after school, during frees, and even during lunch and activity, St. Teresa's students are often seen mouthing the words to songs with white headphones dangling from their ears. The headphones are attached to the iPod, a small, portable mp3 player that allows the downloading and listening of music.

Since October 16, 2003 more than 1.4 million iPods have been sold across the world. iTunes, the division of Apple that makes songs available to download for the iPod, has over 17 million music selections.

Freshman Molly O'Byrne owns a pink iPod mini and she knows what makes them popular.

"They can hold a lot of songs," said O'Byrne. O'Byrne also likes how they are portable. O'Byrne got her iPod as a gift for her 14th birthday in October of 2004 and admits that the trend affected her reasons for wanting an iPod. However, she also believes that she was one of the first people to get one.

Freshman, Haley Vondenkamp thinks that iPods are so popular at St. Teresa's because all the songs are in one place.

"They are targeted towards teens," said Vondenkamp. "They are a popular trend."

Freshman Sally Nulton does not own an iPod but understands why they are so popular at STA.

"Because you can bring them out during frees," said Nulton on the iPod's popularity. "They are convenient, small, and they are more modern. All teenagers like modern things."

iPods are not allowed during the school day but numerous students listen to them during their unstructured time. O'Byrne and Vondenkamp both occasionally listen to them during frees, and frequently during lunch and activity.

"Sometimes we play a game in activity," said Vondenkamp. "One girl chooses a song and mouths to the audience without letting anyone seeing the



BRENNA MITCHELL

Freshman Sally Nulton, left, scans her music options while sharing her iPod with freshman Maggie Burke, April 3. The pair were on their way to a C-team soccer game at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

song title and we all try and guess the song."

Not every student at St. Teresa's owns an iPod. Some components have kept Sally Nulton from purchasing an iPod.

"I really like them because it allows you to listen to diverse music and you don't have to buy a cd I also really like the colors, but I can't afford to pay a dollar a song," Nulton said on her opinion

of the iPod.

With so many songs available to download, the iPod has exposed STA students to different kinds of music. Vondenkamp says that her taste in music has changed because she has more access to different kinds of artists and she doesn't have to buy a whole cd. However, O'Byrne said the iPod has not affected her taste in music and she listens to the same music she always has.

Vondenkamp does not believe the iPod craze will die.

"I don't think so. They are always coming out with new models," said Vondenkamp.

From the several students listening to them during frees, to a girl listening to her turquoise mini on the way to a sporting event, the iPod proves itself to be at the center of STA students' music listening. ★

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## ★in brief

The newest iPod can hold up to 15,000 songs, 25,000 photos and 150 hours of video. The 60-gigabyte iPod cost \$399.00 and weighs about 5.5 ounces. Apple Compute, Inc. also released a 30-gigabyte iPod, which can hold 7,500 songs. This video iPod costs \$299.00 and weighs less than 4.8 ounces.

## Students compare, customize digital music

Freshmen discuss their iPods and their reasons for having them

Journalism Student  
Molly Torrence

"Honestly, I don't really care about all the other stuff," said freshman Rachel Turgeon. "Its [my iPod's] job is to let me listen to music, as long as I have an iPod that does that much, I'm good."

According to Turgeon most people today own iPods. However, because there are so many different types of iPods to choose from, with each having a special feature, buying one could prove to be less than simple, according to freshman Bridget Shields. Different iPods have many special features.

"With iPod photo, you can have a picture on your computer and put it on your iPod," said Shields. "But you can't take pictures, [with the iPod] because it

has no lens."

Another iPod, the iPod Nano, is so small that one could stick it in one's pocket, according to Turgeon.

"I can easily stick it into my pocket and carry it everywhere," said Turgeon. "But the screen scratches easier than some of the others."

iPods are very fragile, and the screen is very delicate, so iPods are not the best objects for all age groups, Turgeon believes.

"The iSock is pretty pointless," said Shields. "\$200 earphones are pretty pointless."

However, lots of people like having 'pointless' accessories.

"I really want an iPod sock because it wraps around the iPod; to keep it clean and make it look like a sock," said Shields.

Turgeon likes accessories just as much as the next person.

"Well, I'm pretty happy with the case I have now," said Turgeon. "But I did see one with a lightning bolt on it that would be cool, because I'm obsessed with Harry Potter."

The iPod video is the most wanted iPod, though some people want decorated iPod videos, according to Shields. Some people want iPods with special features like photograph options; others prefer book, movie, Japanese, or Harry Potter themed iPods, said Shields and Turgeon.

"I would most definitely buy a Harry Potter iPod if my parents would let me," said Turgeon, "as soon as I got the money and the ok from the parental units, I would have a Harry Potter iPod before you could say 'Quidditch'."

Not every one wants an ultra-modern iPod, though. Lots of people—Turgeon and freshman Sarah White—like iPod Nanos, because they are small; some people like the regular iPods, because they are simple, Shields and others prefer themed iPods, because they like to show their favorite book/movie. Some people are happy with their current iPod.

"I think it would be simpler for me to just stick to having pictures downloaded on my iPod," said Shields. "Simple is better."★



MOLLY TORRENCE

Freshman Bridget Shields listens to her iPod photo in Ms. Arlene HERNON's room during a free April 6.



# Culture surfaces musically



## “Scare” kids bring emo culture into mainstream focus

Journalism Student  
Emily LaGrand

They have a distinct style, perceived “holier-than-thou” attitudes, and hair dyed unnatural colors. They listen to a music dubbed “screamo,” the name coming from the screaming lyrics and emotional hard core guitar melodies. Love or hate them, almost every teenager knows who they are. They’re the scene kids, and their definition, and what draws or repels the people around them, is a mystery.

“It’s really hard to define [the scene],” said sophomore Anna Boisseau. “I think of things I associate with it [like] uneven haircuts, bandanas, girl jeans on guys, people screaming in their music.”

According to junior Meredith Snyder, hair dying is also popular among scene kids, many of them dying it two or three colors at once.

“I’m surprised a lot of them aren’t just bald, they’ve dyed it that many times,” Snyder said. “I think there should be a point where you’re just so scene that your hair falls out.”

Senior Erica Houglund says that the emo scene has become a culture, something different and unexplored and a chance to make a name for one’s self.

“The scene kids are the kids who have realized they can’t hide from the sun all the time, so they formed a counter-counter culture in order to socialize,” Houglund said.

From the tips of their choppy haircuts to the bottoms of their girl jeans, scene kids are either hated or loved by various teenagers.

“I don’t know how to describe them,” said freshman Caitlin O’Donnell. “All I know is that they’re really cute, like Sonny Moore [lead singer of From First To Last].

I love their tight pants.”

Freshman Jeannette Cieszykowski shares O’Donnell’s thoughts on the lead singer for From First To Last, defining him and the rest of the scene as simply “hot.”

While O’Donnell and Cieszykowski enjoy the scene, others don’t share their enthusiasm.

“It’s a pitiful excuse to gain acceptance,” said freshman Caroline Quinn. “They think they’re being unique, but really there’s just so many [kids] that it defeats the uniqueness. [Emo] used to be so underground and powerful. Now it’s just... watered down, thanks to Myspace and Xanga, and the abundance of local bands.”

The emo scene, according to freshman Emily Cappo, should not be confused with emo music in itself. Emo, short for “emotional hard core,” refers to a different group of people and musical genre, including bands like Dashboard Confessional and Death Cab for Cutie.

“They [play into the scene] for a need to be cool, like wanting to be popular but unique,” Cappo said. “It’s like a stupid excuse to be emo and not have people think you cut yourself.”

According to freshman Bianca Dang, the scene comes with an attitude as well as a fashion statement.

“The only really mean [scene kid], but the only one I know, is just hot,” Dang said. “They try to have this attitude, like they’re better than everyone else. The ones I’ve encountered are all like that.”

Dang also related the scene to the music these kids listen to. She said the scene kids listen to music they like, devoutly follow the band, and dress to fit them.

“I try to stay away from [the emo scene],” Dang said. “I don’t like their music... all the screaming is just bad.”

But as with any social group, there are always those who want to be a part and to be accepted.

“[Junior Alice Collins and I] figured it out,” said Snyder. “All scene kids are wannabe scene kids, and the real scene kids are indie.” ★

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St. Teresa’s Academy

EMILY LAGRAND

Nick Daniels, left, and fellow band member rock out at the show for their band, A Single Shot, at finals for the Punk Wars at the Bottleneck in Lawrence on Feb. 25.

### ★in brief

Winners of American Idol:

Season 1:

Kelly Clarkson

Born: Burlington, Texas 1982

Season 2:

Rubén Studdard

Born: Birmingham, Alabama 1978

Season 3:

Fantasia Barrino

Born: High Point, North Carolina 1984

Season 4:

Carrie Underwood

Born: Checotah, Oklahoma

## STA faculty, students vote for American Idol

America’s number one television show grows in popularity as contestants compete each week

Journalism Student  
Maddy McGannon

The Gray family rushes from soccer practices to track meets each week, rarely having time to sit down and eat dinner as a family. However, in the hustle of school and sports activities, the family gathers around the television on Tuesday and Wednesday nights to watch American Idol: The Search for a Superstar. As the four girls settle in their living room, their mother, Ms. Katy Gray, hurries from the kitchen just in time for the start of the show. The family has gathered for the next episode of American Idol.

Millions of Americans tune in every Tuesday and Wednesday night to watch a series of contestants compete in hopes of becoming the next American Idol. Judges Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell, and Randy Jackson provide criticism and compliments each week. However the fate of these contestants lies in the hands of Americans who vote by phone or text message. According to the American Idol web site, last year over one billion votes were received through the contest, making American Idol the number one television show in America.

“Sometimes I start to vote and it’s

busy,” said Gigi Gray, nine. “Then I just forget to call back.”

She votes for her favorite, the country girl Kellie Pickler, each week. According to Gigi, Pickler is good at singing, fun to watch, pretty, and has a fun personality. She is one of the other girls’ favorites as well. Not only is Pickler a favorite in the Gray household, but at St. Teresa’s as well. According to a survey of one hundred students, Kellie is most likely to win this year’s competition.

The Gray family consists of four girls, Lindsay, a freshman at STA, Caroline, 13, Peepers, 11, and Gigi, nine. The girls fight and don’t always get along during the show. According to Lindsay, American Idol is a good family show however it’s not always ideal family time.

“Gigi always sings during the show,” said Lindsay. “Everyone just yells at her to shut up.”

Gigi says she enjoys singing and that’s why she loves American Idol. Claire McFarland, a sophomore at STA, loves Idol because she’s a singer as well. She takes voice lessons and has hopes of someday trying out for the show.

“I feel like I know more than Paula sometimes,” said McFarland. “It’s like she doesn’t have ears. But I guess I just love the show so much because I love singing.”

Tessa Cunningham, a sophomore at STA, agrees that American Idol is her favorite show. Cunningham admitted to voting 110 times for her favorite, the rocker Chris Daughtry.

“I really enjoy listening to music,”



Peepers Gray, 11, takes time out of her schedule to watch an episode of American Idol on Tuesday April 11. She enjoys watching the show weekly with the rest of her family.

said Tessa. “I like the way they make people sing outside their comfort zone.”

Unlike McFarland, Cunningham says she has no singing ability. The reason she enjoys American Idol is because she likes watching other people sing.

Not only is American Idol popular with students, but various teachers are fans of the show as well. Mr. Fudenberg watches Idol every week with his wife and daughter, and can agree that it is a family show.

“The show is entertaining,” said Fudenberg. “Plus there are just some really talented people.”

Fudenberg’s favorite is Katharine McPhee, who he believes has the best voice. Katharine came second in the survey taken, coming close to Kellie Pickler.

According to a survey at STA, 56% of students watch American Idol, and many of them continuously watch the show every week. The show has not only become popular in America, but in the STA community as well.

“American Idol is not just a television show,” said Paula Abdul in the Best and Worst of American Idol DVD. “It’s a phenomenon.” ★

MADDY MCGANNON



# Cast bonds through

# Music

## Rockhurst group closes up 'shop' after weeks of dedication

Journalism Student  
Anne Tampke

As the curtain closes everyone congratulates each other after their last successful performance. Principles and chorus members alike cheer as they rush to the lobby to greet their friends and family. Hugs and kisses gently wipe away tears of sadness as a chapter in the life of the Little Shop of Horrors cast ends.

"I get really emotionally attached to a show and when it's over I'm in depression," said Little Shop cast member sophomore Claire McFarland.

Little Shop was a production put on by Rockhurst High School that Rockhurst, STA, Sion, and Shawnee Mission East students performed in.

Through the eight week rehearsal period, the cast molded together like one big happy family according to McFarland. McFarland, who has been participating in Rockhurst shows since last year's Jesus Christ Superstar, said most of the same kids do Rockhurst shows every year, but there are always a few new ones.

"I pray that they aren't better than us and take our parts, but when they are in the show they become part of our family," said McFarland. "We suck them into our cult."

One of the "new ones" is Rockhurst senior Tyler Vaughan. He had no prior theatre experience to auditioning for Little Shop, but scored the lead role of Seymour in the show.

"Auditions were awkward because I only knew a handful of people from choir," said Vaughan. "I didn't know what my competition would be like."

By the first day of rehearsal everyone was pretty comfortable with each other according to McFarland and Vaughan. They both agree that the cast gets along for the most part.

"[During rehearsals] we usually goof-off and talk, but when Ms. Kane enters we work hard to impress her," said McFarland of the daily routine.

Ms. Kathy Kane, the director of Little

Shop, has been involved with the Rockhurst theatre program for four years. She is proud to say that when the curtain opens she sits in the audience and lets the students run the whole show, including stage management, lighting, make-up, and scenery. All of this responsibility required the students to work much harder to pull the show off by themselves.

The music of Little Shop was a challenge for all of the cast members because of its level of difficulty. McFarland said there was a lot more harmonization in this show than others which requires more focus. Vaughan feels the same way.

"There are lots of really fun solos, and the music is fun and dramatic," said Vaughan. "It's really cool to hear all of the harmonies. Everyone in the show can really sing, so it's cool to hear them all together and then when one person breaks out."

Although he finds the music to be fun, it didn't come easy for Vaughan, who only sings by ear.

"It's frustrating because I can't read sheet music, so I only know how to sing the songs from listening to the CD a lot," said Vaughan. "People think since I can sing that I can read music and that's not the case."

According to Kane, the choreographers also had to depend on the CD before the orchestra "pit" could start working with the dancers. The whole process requires some patience before all of the elements of the show come together.

"When everyone in the cast is getting along rehearsal seems to be more fun and exciting to go to," said McFarland. "It's just all of us hanging out instead of just working, and you can see the chemistry on stage."

When the curtain closes, stage dances and cast parties are over, and the set disassembled, the Little Shop cast has only memories and tears left of all their hard work together.

"I will feel like a part of me is missing," said McFarland. "I really will!"

McFarland and her fellow cast mates now must pick up and start from scratch on a new show with different people. They look to the horizon for challenges that await them in the future. According to Kane that is the fun part about it.

"Theatre is a challenge and it's always something new every time," said Kane.

★



ANNE TAMPKE

Sophomore Claire McFarland works with Little Shop's musical director Mr. Olsen. McFarland finds the harmonization challenging even though she has been singing since she was two.

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St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

Survey composed by the Health Communication Unit about teens use of radio's in Canada.

Since 1983, teens have consistently listened to the radio least of all age groups.

Radio listening has declined from 11.2 hours per week to 8.5 hours per week.

One third of teen radio users listen to it between 6 and 10 a.m. 29% listened to the radio between 3 and 7 p.m. 10% listened to the radio between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

## Local teen brings music program back to coast

### Performer creates hope by reviving a broken Mississippi band program

Journalism Student  
Hanna Cosgrove

It has been seven months since Hurricane Katrina and despair still fills the streets of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Rubble from abandoned houses sits untouched on vacant lots. FEMA trailers line the streets. Boats are found on land and schools are short on simple things such as paper and pencils leaving little money for extras such as band instruments. However, Blue Valley North freshman Aubrey Ireland attempts to bring music back to St. Martin Middle School which is now a pile of debris due to Katrina.

"We need all of the basics; paper, pencils, books," said Ms. Lee Hagerly Wilson, a seventh grade teacher at St. Martin. "When we were collecting money, band got left out because the instruments are very expensive to replace."

Hearing about St. Martin from a family friend, Ireland was motivated by her

own love of music and went to work collecting instruments for the band program. She sold handmade bracelets and posted flyers around her community asking for used instruments.

"Many kids have old instruments sitting in the basement and they never play them," Ireland said. "What better use than to donate them to children who will truly appreciate it?"

With a carload of donations, Ireland traveled to the coast during spring break to personally deliver the instruments to the school. St. Martin band students and their instructor Ms. Julie Massey welcomed Aubrey upon her arrival.

"They were so happy to have an instrument of their own to play," said Massey in a Kansas City Channel report. "It was really amazing."

Being a performer herself, Ireland views music as an integral component in a child's life. She hopes that these instruments will bring the joy of music back to the middle school students.

"Music has always been a part of my life just by singing in the car," Ireland said. "It's healing. It helps you feel better no matter what is going on. I wanted music to be as much of a part of their life as it is mine."

With this thought in mind, Ireland

collected \$180 for the school and seven band instruments including a complete drum set. However, even with Aubrey's donation, the school is still short on instruments.

"After students play, they spray mouthwash into the instrument and pass it onto the next person," Wilson, St. Martin teacher, said. "We're just doing the best we can with what we have. There is no choice, you have to go on."

Ireland plans to completely refurbish St. Martin's band program and eventually help other schools in the area.

"[The trip] was a real eye opener for me," Ireland said. "When things seem bad to me they are really not bad at all. My goal is to bring music back to St. Martin and have them tell me that they don't need any more instruments."

As for now Ireland will continue to collect instruments. Since her trip over spring break, she has received more than eight additional instruments and hopes to make another visit to the school sometime this summer.

"When Aubrey came down it showed the kids that we weren't alone in the world," Wilson said. "For someone to come down is amazing. There are actually people out there that are trying to help." ★



HANNA COSGROVE

Blue Valley North freshman Aubrey Ireland sings, "I can go the Distance," from, "Hercules" April 8 in her home. Inspired by her love of music, Ireland hopes to bring music back to St. Martin.



# Salsa dancing sparks interest in KC communities

Clubs, dance studios offer more options due to increasing appeal in Latin dance

Journalism Student  
Maddie Hickey

The Latin beats vibrate the wooden dance floor as women's heels glide across to the eight-count, forward-backward motion with their partner moving in this sultry, vivacious dance known as Salsa. The Kansas City Salsa scene has recently gained popularity from the community, with local clubs featuring Salsa themed nights, such as The Madrid Theater's "Flirt Friday" night of dancing once a month.

Despite rising interest, the Salsa scene lacks opportunity for teens due to clubs enforcing age restrictions. Mr. Josh Hernandez, instructor and creator of KCSalsa.com and Latin Rhythm Dance Productions, acknowledges that teenagers don't currently have a place, but hopes to create a teen salsa club due to his belief that dancing is essential for youth. "[Teenagers] should come to my class," said Hernandez. "Bottom line, they have to. I mean [my company] is starting to target teenagers right now, as a way to get them to dance well, and a way to put them on our dance team. Teenagers, of all people, they have to dance, they have to dance!"

Hernandez finds that Salsa dancing is a more effective way for teenagers to understand the opposite sex opposed to buying books and magazines. According to Hernandez, Salsa is often seen as an innocent way of "Quick Dating," due to the constant switching of partners.

Originally from Puerto Rico, and trained in numerous styles of dance, Hernandez founded KCSalsa.com in 2002 to offer what he thought was missing in the local Salsa scene.

"When I moved to Kansas City, I found that there were a lot of Ballroom studios,



Mr. Josh Hernandez, left, critiques students turn patterns in an intermediate Salsa class at Nallia's School of Dance. The dance classes are held Thursday nights for \$35 a lesson.

but there was a lack of focus on specifically Salsa music and dance," said Hernandez.

Hernandez finds his website to be the best source of information locally for Kansas City Salsa events, offering a calendar of events specifically Salsa/Mambo related.

"The website's simply nothing more than a vehicle we use to disseminate information on Salsa music and dance in the community," said Hernandez. "A lot of people think it's a nice website, but it's not where I want it to be yet."

Hernandez is working to create a bilingual website to provide Spanish-speakers with a resource for finding class information. In his classes at Nallia's School of Dance, offered Wednesdays and Thursdays, Hernandez finds joy in teaching his students.

"I get really excited when through dancing, people discover more about themselves," said Hernandez. "For people who are quiet, they become more outgoing. For

people who are outgoing, they become more focused in terms of details they didn't [focus on] before. For people who are maybe a little bit insecure, they gain a new sense of confidence."

Some STA students find the idea of Salsa dancing appealing because of its contrast to American dancing. After their trip to the Dominican Republic, sophomores Hannah Girardeau and Libby Hastert were immersed in the Latin Dance.

"I think when we're at dances, 'American-dance-functions', for the most part people are just kind of swaying back and forth, rocking, just simple actions," said Hastert. "But [in] the Dominican culture, a lot of the time, unless it's a particular Salsa and Merengue number, they can kind of do their own free style. Their bodies move completely different than that of our culture."

After experiencing Latin dancing, both

sophomores are hoping to visit a Salsa dance class or enroll in a Salsa dancing class.

"I would love to go [to a Latin dance club], and would go this second if you asked me to go with you," said Girardeau. "I'd think it'd be fun to see how it was different and how it was the same [as Dominican dancing]."

According to Hernandez, local Salsa clubs attract an array of dancers, usually young-professionals. Hernandez finds the definition of Salsa depends with the individual, but personally sees it as a way for people to enjoy themselves regardless of social barriers.

"People from all levels dance," said Hernandez. "I would refer to [Salsa] as the ultimate form of interaction with people from any age group, race, sexual orientation, background, economic status, class, it doesn't matter." ★

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St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

Sixteen-year-old singer Chris Brown has recently agreed to join the Dem Franchize Boys and Ne-Yo on the road this summer. The tour is planned to sell out 8,000 to 10,000 seats per show. Brown has previous experience with the boys on tour, who assisted him with his single "Run It." All artists have confirmed their spots on the "Up Close and Personal" tour of 2006.

## Ending on a high note: 10-year-old girl wins Nationals with opera piece

Crystal Clayton takes voice lessons and performs all over KC

Journalism Student  
Amanda Backer

Crystal Clayton won local and regional singing competitions and was headed for nationals at the age of 10. She wasn't sure whether she would win or not with her solo opera piece.

"My mom said 'You're probably not going to win this because they are all country judges and I don't know if they'll appreciate it [opera song]," said Clayton. "But I ended up winning!"

Clayton was happy to win after the embarrassing moment in her dressing room a few hours before.

"The dressing room that was open was the guys' dressing room and I didn't know that it was the boys' dressing room," said Clayton. "So I walked in and there were two guys talking... And I was like 'Ok Grandpa you can put my luggage over there' and the guys said 'You do know that this is the guys' dressing room?' It was really embarrassing!"

Clayton started singing when she was little.

"I would just sing around the house and then I told my mom everyday that I wanted to be a singer and I was going to be famous," said Clayton.

Clayton's first play was Blue Springs City Theatre's production of Annie. She was disappointed when she didn't get the role of Annie.

"What seven year old girl didn't want

Annie?" Clayton said.

But Clayton met Lena Andrews in that show, and Andrews later became her voice teacher.

"Every time I hear Crystal sing I am blown away," said Andrews at a concert of Clayton's.

Clayton was later asked to sing the "National Anthem" at the Royals stadium and gymnastics competitions. After seeing her around town, organizations asked her to perform for their functions.

"My mom always says 'Crystal, you never know if someone might be around to hear you and they'll ask you to do something,'" said Clayton. "So I am just out there and performing all the time."

Clayton participated in a theatre camp and was later cast in the Lyric Opera Theatre's Tosca and La Boheme. In April, Clayton sang for a 50's and 60's radio show at Middle Creek Opry house in Louisburg, Kansas. She sang songs such as "Aquarius", "Sweet Nothings" and "Stupid Cupid". For the performance, she had to practice on her own time and only sang with the group two hours before show time.

"I practice at home," said Clayton. "We just have a boom box and then we put the CD in and then I sing... with like a hair brush or something. I use that as a microphone."

Clayton finds support through her friends.

"Crystal brings high quality technique, a strong performance, and an attitude of professionalism that is rare in City Theater," said Alyssa Mahlberg, Crystal's friend who takes voice lessons



Crystal Clayton, 12, signs one of her CDs after performing in a 50s and 60s variety show in Louisburg, Kansas at middle Creek Opry House on April 8. Clayton recorded the CD two years ago, it is sold at the Opry House where she regularly performs.

with her and is in her theatre group.

Clayton plans on pursuing a professional career in singing.

"I definitely want to be a professional singer and actress and also a dancer... I want to sing, I don't know, country or pop or anything, and I really want to do that," said Clayton. "I've also been thinking about maybe being an opera singer or maybe going on Broadway."

Clayton's father is very proud of her. He is sure that she will pursue a professional career.

"I have no doubt Crystal will make her living in entertainment," said Larry Clayton. "The only question is in what venue."

Clayton remains active with her theatre group, voice lessons and dance, and still vows to be famous some day. ★



# Voice teacher strikes a chord with students



ELIZABETH WARWICK

Ms. Kristi Tucker hits a high note with her student junior Mary Monachino to help Monachino hit the note during her voice lesson on April 4. Monachino has taken voice lessons for almost a year and said, "No matter the ups and downs of life, put it in your music."

## Young people learn the basics of singing but feel they leave with more

Journalism Student  
Elizabeth Warwick

"I started singing when I started talking. I might have been singing first."

Ms. Kristi Tucker has lived her life in the spotlight. Her mother is the highly acclaimed jazz singer, Ms. Marilyn Maye and her father was a dancer.

"From the time I was four and five years old, I was exposed to incredible jazz musicians," said Tucker.

Tucker credits her mother with teaching her how to sing. By the time she was eight years old she was singing solo and with her mother at different restaurants.

"I sold my Girl Scout cookies from the stage of the Colony Steakhouse," said Tucker.

Along with her strong appreciation of jazz music she developed a love for Broadway songs. When she was 18 she moved to New York City and began her professional career. She toured all across the United States in a variety of different shows and performed on Broadway. She considers her signature role to be Adelaide from "Guys and Dolls", which, to this day, is her favorite part. Her resume also includes performances in

"West Side Story", "The Fantasticks", and "Nunsense". After 20 plus years in New York, she decided to move back to Kansas City. The idea to teach voice lessons came from a long time friend and teacher, Ms. Shirley Marley. Tucker began teaching and loved it.

"When you teach, it's cliché to say,

but you do plant a seed," said Tucker, "watching that seed grow is the most rewarding experience of my life."

Mary Monachino, a junior at STA has been taking from Tucker for almost a year. Monachino has always loved singing and is in Acapella Choir at STA. She feels that Tucker helps improve her voice and teaches how to put emotion into a song.

"She showed me a whole new outlook on singing and music," said Monachino.

Monachino sings mostly show tunes but her favorite song is "Taylor the Latte Boy," performed by Kristin Chenoweth.

"[Singing] helps me get away from everything," said Monachino. "I can go into the song and it makes me forget everything."

Another student of Tucker's is 13-year-old Grace Whitley, a seventh grader at St. Peter's School. Grace has been taking voice for a little over six months. In a typical lesson they talk about their week, sing a warm-up, and begin working on a song in the genre of jazz, blues, or show tunes.

"She's a lot of fun and she knows what she's doing so I know she's helping me out a lot with my singing," said Grace.

Tucker loves watching her students perform because she feels there's a little part of her inside them.

"It really makes you feel good when you have an affect on a young person in a positive way," said Tucker.

Both Monachino and Grace agree that Tucker's bubbly personality and love for what she does help them improve. They feel a strong connection to her.

"It's a teacher-student and friend-friend relationship," said Grace. "I can talk to her about anything and it's like talking to my best friend." ★



MEGHAN PENLAND

Freshman Lauren Durie, left, flips through Arctic Monkeys songs on an iPod with freshman Erin Andres on April 15 at Town Center Plaza. They sat outside Barnes and Noble Booksellers listening to songs and looking at the new Arctic Monkeys CD.

## American fans go ape over Arctic Monkeys' new rock sound from across the pond

### Internet advanced UK band months before they recorded a CD

Journalism Student  
Meghan Penland

The latest British music import, the Arctic Monkeys are blasting their way to the American rock scene. Much like the British invasion of the late 1960s, this young group is taking our youth by storm.

The Arctic Monkeys is a new, young band that is not afraid to express themselves, according to STA freshman, Bridget Shields.

"I like that they didn't play on BBC's Top of the Pops," Shields said. "Bands lose their linguistic selves and I'm glad they aren't trying to become popular."

The Arctic Monkeys is a British band that originated in High Green, a suburb of Sheffield, England. The band gradually gained popularity when their demos were made available on websites on the Internet in 2004. The band didn't put their music on the Internet; their songs were recorded at one of their gigs and then downloaded onto the Internet.

"The Internet totally hyped them," said Shields.

The Internet launched their success in both England and America. People downloaded their songs and word spread about the band. Their songs have slowly gained popularity in the United States and some people are now avid fans.

"Their songs are pretty catchy, up tempo, and pretty fun," said Joe McAdam, a junior at the University of Kansas.

The four members in the band are Alex Turner, Jamie "Cookie" Cook, Andy Nicholson, and Matthew "The Cat" Helders. Alex Turner is the lead vocalist and plays the lead guitar. Jamie "Cookie" Cook is the band's rhythm guitarist and provides backing vocals. Andy Nicholson is a backing vocalist and plays bass for the band. Matthew "The Cat" Helders is the

comprehensive backing vocalist.

The Arctic Monkeys are one of the most popular bands in England right now. Their popularity has grown because the Internet granted access to their fame and popularity.

The Arctic Monkeys did not sign a record deal right away. They released their first Extended Play, Five Minutes with Arctic Monkeys, featuring the songs, "Fake Tales of San Francisco" and "From the Ritz to the Rubble" in May of 2005. This was limited to 1,000 CDs and was available on iTunes Music Store.

The band eventually signed a record deal with Domino Records in June 2005.

*"Their songs are pretty catchy, up tempo and pretty fun."*  
University of Kansas junior,  
Joe McAdam

"I'm glad that they did sign it, but disappointed because they think they are better than a record deal," Shields said.

As soon as the Arctic Monkeys released their new hit single, "I Bet You Look Good on the Dance-

floor," the song went straight to number one on the UK Singles Chart on October 17, 2005. Their second single, "When the Sun Goes Down," became number one on the charts in January 2006.

Many people have very different opinions of the band.

"They are a mediocre, guitar-driven, punk rock band," said Jerry Penland, a retired Clerk for the United States Postal Service. "The style of music they play I like, I don't know if they are necessarily original."

The band is very popular in England, but they are less well-known here. Many people haven't heard of them yet or don't know much about them.

"I haven't heard too many of their songs," McAdam said. "They sound pretty British."

Although many people haven't heard of them yet, the band has a sold out tour of the United States in March of 2007. They are now gaining popularity in America and more people are learning about them.

"I'm upset because I didn't get tickets!" Shields said. "I'm excited that everyone likes them, though." ★

4 may 2006

★  
The Dart  
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St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

Singers Justin Timberlake and Nelly Furtado have been working on a collaboration song called "Crowd Control." The two met in Miami while simultaneously working on their own albums. Timberlake and Furtado share the same producer, Timberland, who originally suggested the two work together.



# Teens line up for live music



CLAIRE HICKEY

Fans of all ages eagerly wait in line, anticipating chart-topping bands Fall Out Boy and All-American Rejects before a concert at City Market on April 13. The long line of over 9,000 people stretched over four blocks, winding around the streets of the City Market. Crowds waited over two hours in line before the doors opened to the public.

## Teens arrive early in anticipation of front-row seats for favorite bands

Journalism Student  
Claire Hickey

Circling the block and winding around street corners, a multitude of kids, teens, and adults await the bouncers to unlock the doors. This is the typical scene for open-seated concerts, but many teens are willing to wait hours in line to guarantee a prime place inside the concert as they jam to their favorite music.

STA juniors Melissa Rhodes and Tracy Haden stood in line almost eight hours anticipating Rufus Wainwright and Ben Folds at the City Market on Aug. 27. The girls seized a spot at the front of the line at 1:00 p.m. and the concert started at 8:30 p.m. Rhodes and Haden came prepared with blankets, i-Pods, a deck of cards, and a snack bag to help pass the time, but they were not prepared for what happened next.

"All the sudden this monsoon hit," she said. "Our blankets got soaked, and we were getting soaked, but we stuck it out in line."

Rhodes and Haden did not surrender to the rain but instead sacrificed their wet blankets as they prepared to cross the parking lot to a second line with an awning that protected them from rain.

"We camped out there for a while and made tents out of our umbrellas," said Rhodes.

Just after they pitched the umbrella tents, people began moving forward. According to Rhoades, they grabbed their stuff and sprinted ahead. Rhoades said the concert was running a little late, but the gates finally opened a little after nine. According to Rhodes, the fans rushed towards the front of the stage.

"We practically threw our tickets at the lady, and sprinted past everyone," she said. "I've never run that fast in my life."

Rhodes, Haden, and other friends that

had joined them in line led the stampede of people across the parking lot, and obtained their place in the second row. Despite the downpour and the long hours in line, Rhodes said she enjoyed it.

"It was definitely worth it and we looked pretty dedicated," said Rhodes.

According to Rhodes, the experience was worth while.

"It's just a fun experience, everybody there singing along to your favorite songs," said Rhodes. "It's such a cool environment; you can't find that kind of ambiance anywhere else."

STA sophomore Jordan Leinon stood in line four hours to see her favorite band, The Killers, perform live in concert last May.

"While we were waiting in line, all the sudden we look up and The Killers are right there, walking by us," said Leinon.

According to Leinon, she felt it was worth the wait in line. According to Leinon, the time goes by really fast, and she doesn't care about lines as long as she obtains a spot in the first few rows.

STA junior Cecilia Rebeck, however, isn't as keen on waiting long hours in line prior to a concert. When Rebeck attended the Fall Out Boy concert at City Market on April 13, she arrived about an hour early and jumped in line with friends.

"I know some people that were going to get there at two, and I defiantly think that's outrageous," said Rebeck.

Other local teens, like Olathe East High School senior Melissa Roudybush, like meeting new people in line.

"It's so cool to be with all the people and realize you all like this same band," said Roudybush.

According to Leinon, the entire experience made it all worth while. After each concert, Leinon said she is dying to go back.

"The whole experience of the concert is just amazing and it lasts so long," said Leinon. "It's defiantly worth the long hours of waiting in the line." ★

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## ★in brief

### The Billboards Hot 100:

1. Daniel Powder: "Bad Day"
2. Sean Paul: "Temperature"
3. T.I.: "What You Know"
4. Chamillionaire Featuring Krayzie Bone: "Ridin'"
5. Natasha Bedingfield: "Unwritten"
6. LL Cool J Featuring Jennifer Lopez: "Control Myself"
7. Dem Franchize Boyz Featuring Lil Peanut and Charlay: "Lean Wit It, Rock Wit It"
8. James Blunt: "You're Beautiful"
9. Bubba Sparxxx Featuring Ying Yang Twins and Mr. Collisparx: "Ms. New Booty"
10. Red Hot Chili Peppers: "Dani California"

~Billboard.com

# Death Cab for Cutie fans speak out

## Fans of the group talk about songs and give their input on the alternative band

Journalism Student  
Kylee Burke

Screaming people chant louder and louder for Death Cab for Cutie. Finally the four men step into the light of the stage, wave to the people in the crowd, and take hold of their instruments. They strike the first chord as the fans all begin to sing along with the familiar tune.

"It seemed like they would be doing this even if they weren't being paid," said Chris Guggisberg, a self proclaimed die-hard Death Cab fan. "They were so into it - either way they were out there because of their love of the music"

Guggisberg attended the sold out December 16 concert at Memorial Hall. Death Cab for Cutie played an hour and a half set that included the hit songs "The Sound of Settling" and "Soul Meets Body". Once the foursome finished playing a song lead singer and songwriter, Benjamin Gibbard thanked the audience for coming and being fans of their music. After the set was finished, and some encouraging cheers from the audience, the band came back out to play an encore that included the song "Tiny Vessels."

"It was the best moment of the night, because of the anticipation," said Guggisberg. "We were waiting all night, screaming for it. It could have sounded bad and I wouldn't have cared!"

The band started playing music in 1998 in Bellingham WA, with Ben Gibbard, Chris Walla, Nick Harmer, and Nathan Good making up the band. After the band's drummer Good left in 2000, Michael Schorr

replaced him. In 2003 Schorr left the band to be replaced by Jason McGerr and McGerr has stayed with the band ever since.

Guggisberg, currently a junior at Rockhurst began listening to Death Cab since the beginning of his sophomore year.

"I thought it was catchy and that the vocals were amazing," said Guggisberg of the first time he heard the band. "I expected them to be what everyone else did; heavy metal, but I was pleasantly surprised."

Some of his favorite songs are "Tiny Vessels" and "What Sarah Said". He relates to "What Sarah Said" because of his relationship with his grandfather.

"Watching someone die, I don't know how to tell him [my grandfather] that I love him, but I know it would be hard watching him die," said Guggisberg. "Also Transatlantic ism, it's weird but like somewhere in this relationship people cannot reach one another and I had that with a girl."

People criticize Death Cab for being too "girlie", repetitive, others say the foursome is like every other band out there, Guggisberg replies by saying that these are the people that have not heard all of Death Cab's songs and he strongly disagrees.

"Be open minded and listen to more than one song before you make up your mind," said Guggisberg.

Another fan of Death Cab for Cutie, Mollie Caffey an STA freshman, was introduced to them through a friend's iPod.

"I was really intrigued but it took



KYLEE BURKE

Lead singer and guitarist Benjamin Gibbard, left, and guitarist Nick Harrier play the beginning of, "Soul Meets Body," at their Dec. 16 concert at Memorial Hall.

me awhile to get really into it," said Caffey. "From the songs I've heard I like the tranquility."

Her favorite song is "Tiny Vessels" because it is like a poem that has a story to it and it paints a picture in her head of what is going on. Even though she has never seen them in concert she has seen them on Saturday Night Live, and says that they seemed a little inexpect-

rienced.

Even with that criticism Caffey says that she really would like to go see them in concert, and would encourage anyone who hasn't heard a Death Cab song to hear one.

"I like the lead singer's voice, its feminine but not girlie," said Caffey. "Also I like the poetic lyrics, its something different." ★